



Carex allanii

Common Name(s):

Allans Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic to the South Island. Known only from the Old Man Range and several sites on the flanks of the Central Otago block mountains. Specimens are needed to substantiate a 2004 report from the Arthur Range, NW Nelson. Pictures of these plants (above) appear to be similar to *Carex ensyii*.

Habitat:

A shade-requiring sedge usually found at the base of rocky bluffs

Features*:

Rhizomatous sedge, forming diffuse matted patches. Rhizomes up to 0.5 mm diameter. Basal sheaths red-brown. Leaves 2-4 = or slightly < culms, 0.2 mm wide, concavo-convex to plano(flat)-convex above, margins slightly scabrid (with teeth) towards tip. Leaf-sheaths red-brown, grooved. Inflorescence a solitary spike of tightly clustered flowers. female flowers 1-2, male flowers in a spikelet 3-4 mm long. Lowermost female glume bract-like, upper female glume 3-4 mm long. acute, red-brown, midrib green, extending to a fine scabrid spine 0.5 mm long. Utricles 3-3.5 × 1 mm, somewhat 3-angled (trigonus), ovoid, with 2 lateral nerves, beak 1 mm long with scabrid margins and oblique orifice (beak fragile and easily lost from specimens). Stigmas 3. Nut < 2 mm long, obovoid, 3-angled.

Flowering:

? -November - December
- ?

Fruiting:

? -November - December
- ?

Threats:

Carex allanii, described in 1962, is known with certainty only from a handful of herbarium specimens. It may be genuinely uncommon, though it was collected once by accident in the mid 1990s (P.B. Heenan pers. comm.) suggesting it might also simply be overlooked. Until further field work is undertaken and backed up by good herbarium specimens, the exact status, and degree of threat (if any) this species faces will remain unresolved. This is why it has been rated as Data Deficient. At sites where it is currently known it appears intolerant of competition from grasses such as *Festuca rubra*.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (10 August 2006).
Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=734



Caption: *Carex allanii*(?) at Mount Arthur.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe from a specimen collected by Graeme Jane.



Caption: *Carex allanii*(?), Mount Arthur.

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