



## *Carex carsei*

### Common Name(s):

Carses sedge

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. In the North Island known from near Lake Taupo, and wetlands around Tongariro National Park. In the South Island throughout in suitable habitats, though scarce in Canterbury, Otago and Fiordland.

### Habitat:

An sub alpine to alpine sedge of boggy ground, mires, and wet forest clearings.

### Features\*:

Rhizomatous sedge, forming dense, grassy swards in swampy places. Rhizomes 1 mm diameter, light brown or grey. Culms 2.5-89.5(-25) cm × 0.5-1 mm, 3-angled (trigonus) or compressed below, stiff, erect, hairless, enclosed for much of length by grey or cream leaf-sheaths. Leaves culms, 1-2.5 mm wide, channelled, grass-like, yellow-green, linear, narrowed to a subobtusate tip, margins finely scabrid (toothed). Inflorescence of 3-5 spikes, clustered together in a compact head, terminal spike male, small, unstalked, remaining spikes female, stalked, overtopping male 1-1.5 cm long. Glumes much < than utricles, broadly ovate, acute, membranous, faintly multi-nerved, pale yellow-brown with a green midrib. Utricles 7-8.5 × 2 mm, plano(flat)-convex to subtrigonus, narrowly lanceolate, multi-nerved, light green to greenish-brown, hairless, tapering to a 3-3.5 mm long beak. Beak bifid, with a finely scabrid orifice. Stigmas 3. Nut 2 mm long, obtusely 3-angled, obovoid, glossy, light yellow-green.

### Flowering:

No information available

### Fruiting:

No information available

### Threats:

*Carex carsei* has very few recent (>1980) collections

### \*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=735](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=735)



**Caption:** *Carex carsei*  
**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Photographer:** Shannel Courtney