



## *Carex strictissima*

### **Common Name(s):**

Bastard grass, hook sedge

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

Threatened - Nationally Endangered

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. In the North Island known only from the Central Volcanic Plateau. In the South Island it apparently has an easterly distribution, being recorded from the Nelson lakes, Canterbury, Otago and Southland.

### **Habitat:**

Lowland scrub, swamps, lake margins and in damp clears within lowland forest.

### **Features\*:**

Dark olive-green to red-green rush-like sedge, forming dense tufts. Culms 300-550(-700) mm x 1 mm, initially trigonous and scabrid but maturing as terete and smooth (except for just under the inflorescence). Basal bracts dull dark brown. Leaves much reduced, inrolled or flat, 1-2 mm wide, rigid, strongly nerved, scabrid on margins, midrib bright red. Spikes 30-100 mm long, subtended by a reddish filiform bract > spike. Female flowers 10-15, distant in longer spikes, internodes up to 14 mm long at base but decreasing to 3 mm toward apex. Glumes < or = utricles, persistent, obtuse or subacute, green to light brown, tinged pink. Utricles 6-7.5 x 2 mm, plano-convex, nerved, light brown, often pink near apex, stipe and beak up to 15 mm long.

### **Flowering:**

October to  
December

### **Fruiting:**

November to May - but as the inflorescence is long persistent, fruits may be present all year round.

### **Threats:**

Herbarium specimens indicate that this was never a common species. However, it is clear that it has declined over large parts of its range, and it is now very close to extinction in the North Island. The species seems to be threatened by habitat loss as a result of weed invasion and by animal browse.

### **\*Attribution:**

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970). Fact sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange 17 August 2006.

### **References and further reading:**

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

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=97](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=97)



**Caption:** *Carex strictissima*  
**Photographer:** John Barkla



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