

Carex drucei

COMMON NAME

Druce's bastard grass, Druce's hook sedge

SYNONYMS

Uncinia drucei Hamlin; *Uncinia drucei* var. *pauciflora* Hamlin

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex drucei (Hamlin) K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

UNCDRU

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 88

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand; North Island, South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura from Mt Hikurangi and Mt Taranaki south.

HABITAT

.Alpine. In cushion bog, fellfield, snow banks, seepages and herbfield

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stoloniferous, widely spreading, pale green to reddish-green plants. **Stolons** c. 0.5 mm diameter. **Culms** 50–200 × 0.3–1.0 mm, glabrous; basal bracts light brown or straw-coloured. **Leaves** 5–6–(8) per culm, < culms, 1.0–1.5 mm wide, bright green, soft, the abaxial surface with 3–5 very pale green, raised veins, margins scabrid and tapering towards the narrow, triangular apex. **Spikes** 5–20 × 3–4 mm, up to 10 mm diam. at maturity, oblong, female flowers 7–18, densely crowded, internodes 0.5–1.5 mm long. **Glumes** ≥ utricles, deciduous, subacute, membranous, pale brown with broad green midrib. **Utricles** 4–5 × c. 1 mm, trigonous, elliptic-lanceolate, dark brown, shining, smooth except for a prominent lateral nerve, widely spreading when ripe, slightly contracted below to a stipe c. 1 mm long and above to a beak c. 1.5 mm long.



Ruahine range, March. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Close to *Carex edura* K.A.Ford, which is a very variable species. From *Carex edura*, *C. drucei* differs by its widely spreading, stoloniferous rather than tufted or shortly rhizomatous growth habit, usually more numerous, much narrower, grass-like, soft rather than harshly scabrid leaves, and by the shorter, oblong rather than broadly pyramidal spikes with smaller dark-brown rather than green-brown to dark brown glossy utricles.

FLOWERING

October–January

FRUITING

December–April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. Probably easily cultivated in an alpine house or rock garden, grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants.

ETYMOLOGY

carex: Latin name for a species of sedge, now applied to the whole group.

drucei: Named after Anthony (Tony) Peter Druce, one of New Zealand's most respected field botanist (1920-1999).

NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL HISTORY

For a brief biography of AP (Tony) Druce, for whom this plant is named, see this article in [Te Ara - The Encyclopedia of New Zealand](#). Hundreds of Tony's famed plant lists can be found [here](#) and back-issues of regional Botanical Society Journals which he contributed can be accessed [here](#).

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 30 August 2006: Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-drucei/>