

Carex zotovii

COMMON NAME

Zotov's bastard grass, Zotov's hook sedge

SYNONYMS

Uncinia zotovii Hamlin

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex zotovii (Hamlin) K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

UNCZOT

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 (mainly Nelson, Otago and Southland), Stewart and Chatham Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane (up to 1000 m a.s.l.) usually on ridge lines in tall forest, favouring well drained but moist soils. Rarely in tall scrub.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants rather open, widely spreading, pale yellow-green tufts; tufts often with only 2–3 distant culms per plant. **Culms** drooping or nodding, 300–600 mm long, < 1 mm diameter, trigonous, glabrous, often scabrid just below inflorescence, basal bracts light brown. **Leaves** 4–6 per culm, < mature culms, 2–5 mm wide, soft, scabrid on margins and on adaxial surface towards apex. **Spikes** 40–80 × 3–6 mm, often bracteate, clavate, male part of spike usually c. 1 mm. diameter and  – ¼ length of whole spike, female flowers 12–32, lax towards base of spike with internodes 4–8 mm long, more crowded above with internodes 0.5–1.0 mm long. **Glumes** ± = utricles, deciduous, ovate, acute or acuminate, hyaline with green midrib or brownish. **Utricles** 5.0–6.0 × c. 1.5 mm, trigonous or triquetrous, ovoid, usually smooth except for a prominent lateral nerve, but occasionally with a few less distinct nerves, green to grey-brown, stipe 1.0–1.5 mm long, beak 1–2 mm long.



Waitakere. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



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SIMILAR TAXA

Carex zotovii is most similar to *C. horizontalis* (Colenso) K.A.Ford and *Carex minor* (Kük.) K.A.Ford. From *Carex horizontalis* it can be distinguished by its wider (2.5–5.0 cf. 1.5–2.0 mm), pale green to yellow-green, rather than dark green leaves, loosely tufted, spreading and more open growth habit, with fewer culms rather than the erect, many-culmed, densely tufted growth habit typical of *C. horizontalis*. *Carex minor* is superficially similar but the glumes in the lower part of the spike are > utricles. In *C. zotovii* the glumes are equal to or < utricles in the lower part of the spike, and in mature spikes the utricles spread out at 90° from the rachis, while those of *C. minor* stay contracted.

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

November–May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants—though these may take a while to settle. Prefers moist soil in a semi-shaded site. However, once established will tolerate a wide range of conditions except waterlogging.

ETYMOLOGY

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

zotovii: After Victor Dmitrievich Zotov (1908 - 1977), one of New Zealand's most eminent botanists who studied the vegetation of NZ high country and the classification of NZ grasses. He also completed a detailed study of the vegetation of the Tararua Range.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

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

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-zotovii/>