

Carex aucklandica

COMMON NAME

Subantarctic hook grass

SYNONYMS

Uncinia aucklandica Hamlin

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex aucklandica (Hamlin) K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

UNCAUC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 88

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (South Otago, Fiordland), Stewart Island/Rakiura, Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

HABITAT

Forest and shrubland from sea level to 900 m a.s.l. Occasionally extending into tussock grassland (*Poa/Chionochloa*) where it has been found sympatric with *Carex erebus* on the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.



Herbarium specimen: AK 62106. Photographed with permission of Auckland Institute and Museum. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 30/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender tufts, shoots < 1mm diameter at base (including sheaths), often rather distant from an ascending rhizome < 1 mm diameter. **Culms** 50–400 mm long, much < 0.5 mm diameter, glabrous; basal bracts dull, dark reddish brown. **Leaves** 4–7 per culm, ± = culms, 0.5–1 mm wide, yellow-green, scabrid on margins and adaxial surface towards the long filiform tip. **Spikes** 25–50 × 2–3 mm, occasionally bracteate, female flowers c. 10–20, internodes to 5 mm long at base of spike, 1.5–2.0 mm long above. **Glumes** = or slightly < utricles, deciduous, ovate-lanceolate, subacute, membranous, pale cream or brown with a green midrib. **Utricles** 5–6 mm long, slightly < 1 mm diameter, plano-convex or subtrigonus to trigonous, narrow oblong-lanceolate, light green, shining, nerved but often very faintly so on the two abaxial surfaces, usually erect when ripe, slightly narrowed to a stipe 1.0–1.5 mm long, beak gradually tapered, only slightly narrower than utricles, 1.0–1.5 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Carex aucklandica is closely allied to *C. erebus* K.A.Ford from which it chiefly differs by its weakly stoloniferous, less markedly tussock-forming growth habit, narrower leaves and spikes, and by the lighter coloured, mature utricles which remaining tightly clasping the inflorescence axis rather than spreading widely.

FLOWERING

November–December

FRUITING

December–February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of established plants (though these may then take a while to settle). Prefers a shaded site, and should be planted within a deep, rich, free draining but permanently moist soil.

ETYMOLOGY

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

aucklandica: Of the Auckland Islands

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

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Carex aucklandica* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-aucklandica/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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