

# Carex edgariae

## COMMON NAME

Edgar's sedge

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

Carex edgariae Hamlin

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

CAREDG

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.60

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Sparse

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island where confined to western Central Otago especially between Lakes Wanaka and Wakatipu.

## HABITAT

A species of montane to subalpine tussock grassland where it grows in wet flushes, seepages and in damp sites near rock overhangs.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Reddish-green to wine-red, shortly rhizomatous, tufted sedge. **Rhizome** 1–1.5 mm diameter. **Culms** 20–150 × 1 mm, cylindrical, glabrous; shorter culms almost hidden with grey-brown to light yellow-brown leaf sheaths. **Leaves** > or occasional < culms, 1–2 mm wide, concavo-convex, margins and rarely the keel scabrid toward leaf apex.

**Inflorescence** of 3–6 approximate, sessile spikes; lowermost spike in well grown plants often distant; terminal spike male, glumes ovate, usually entire, creamy brown; remaining spikes female, clustered round base of male spike, 5–10 × 3–4 mm. **Glumes** for about ½ length of the utricles ovate, almost hyaline with light red-brown striations, midrib cream, scabrid at the apex, apex occasionally extended as a minute awn. **Utricles** 1.5–2.5 × 1 mm, ovoid-ellipsoid, cream at the base with red-brown to black markings on the upper half, nerves distinct in lower half, margins glabrous; beak minute up to 0.3 mm long, crura entire or minutely bidentate, finely scabrid; stipe usually minute or up to 0.5 mm long. **Stigmas** 3. **Nut** 1 × 1 mm, dark grey-brown, obovoid, trigonous with rounded angles.



### SIMILAR TAXA

Perhaps closest to *C. libera* (Kük.) Hamlin which is endemic to North West Nelson and differs most notably by the red-tipped rather than black-tipped utricles, and by the glumes of female spikelets being about the same length, rather than half the length of the utricles. The glumes of male spikelets are creamy brown and usually entire in *C. edgariae*, while those of *C. libera* are usually reddish-brown and distinctly awned.

### FLOWERING

September–December

### FRUITING

October–April

### LIFE CYCLE

Nuts surrounded by inflated utricles are dispersed by granivory and wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in a pot or sunny damp site in a garden. Tolerant of a wide range of soil types and conditions. The reddish green foliage and dark red-brown to black utricles make this a particularly attractive sedge.

### THREATS

A biologically sparse, naturally uncommon species that appears to be more under collected than it is actually threatened.

### ETYMOLOGY

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

### ATTRIBUTION

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.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.

### MORE INFORMATION

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