

Carex egmontiana

COMMON NAME

bastard grass, hook sedge

SYNONYMS

Uncinia egmontiana Hamlin, *Uncinia sivestris* var. *squamata* Hamlin

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex egmontiana (Hamlin) K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

UNCEGM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 88$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

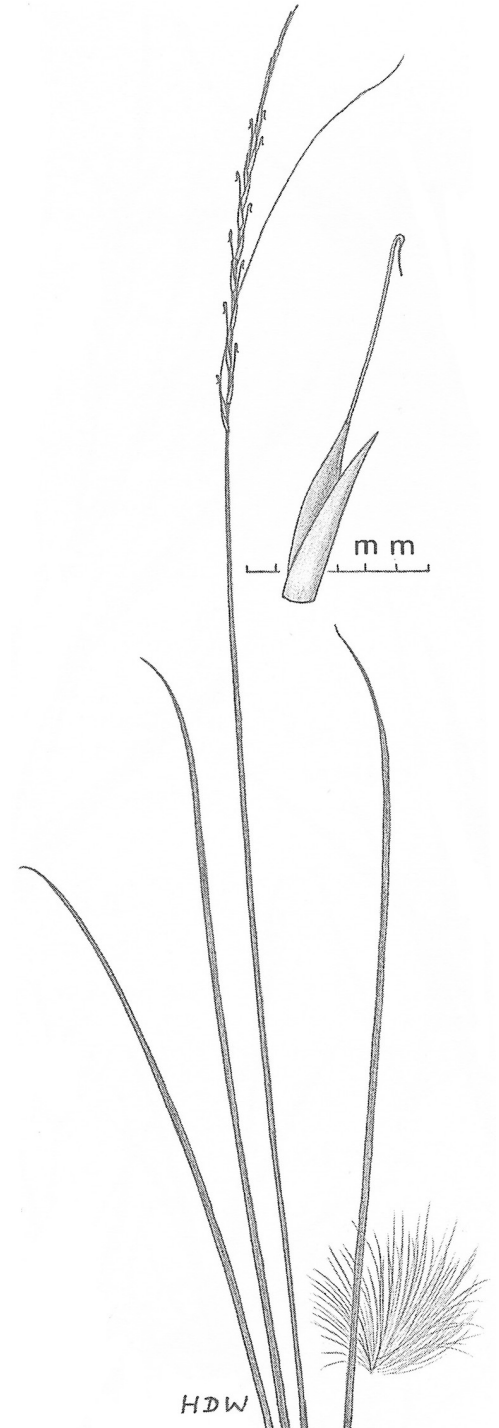
2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Mt Egmont), South and Stewart Islands – apparently absent from Fiordland.

HABITAT

Coastal to alpine. In coastal turf, tussock grassland, alpine mires, bogs and shrubland overlying peat.



Reproduced with permission from Stewart Island plants (1982). Photographer: Hugh D. Wilson

FEATURES

Densely caespitose, dull red or reddish-green (rarely green) plants, 250-400 mm tall. Culms c.300.0 × c. 0.5 mm, glabrous, subtrigonous or almost terete; basal sheaths straw-coloured or light brown. Leaves 4-6 per culm, culms, 1.0-1.5 mm wide, moderately scabrid on margins and upper surface. Spikes 3.5-120.0 × c.3 mm, female flowers c.10-20, rather distant, internodes to 12 mm long at base of spike, c.3 mm long above. Glumes = or >, or rarely slightly < utricles, persistent, ovate-lanceolate, acute, membranous, red or green with pale hyaline margins. Utricles 4.5-6.0 × c.1.0 mm, subtrigonous, elliptic-lanceolate, striated or scarcely nerved, grey-green or reddish grey, contracted below to a stipe usually slightly > 1.5 mm long, narrowed above to a beak slightly < 1.5 mm long

SIMILAR TAXA

From those other *Carex* with hooked utricles and persistent glumes, with the exceptions of *C. silvestris* (Hamlin) K.A.Ford and *C. strictissima* (Petrie) K.A.Ford, *C. egmontiana* can be distinguished from by having glabrous, semi-terete culms. *Carex silvestris* differs by its bright green rather than usually dull red or reddish green leaves, few-nerved, smaller utricles (< 4.5 mm cf. > 5 mm long) which are green rather than grey-green or reddish grey.

FLOWERING

October - November

FRUITING

November - August

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants. Prefers a permanently moist, peaty soil but will grow in most substrates. Except in cool climates this species is best planted in semi-shade.

ETYMOLOGY

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

egmontiana: Of Mount Egmont

ATTRIBUTION

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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