

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

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

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

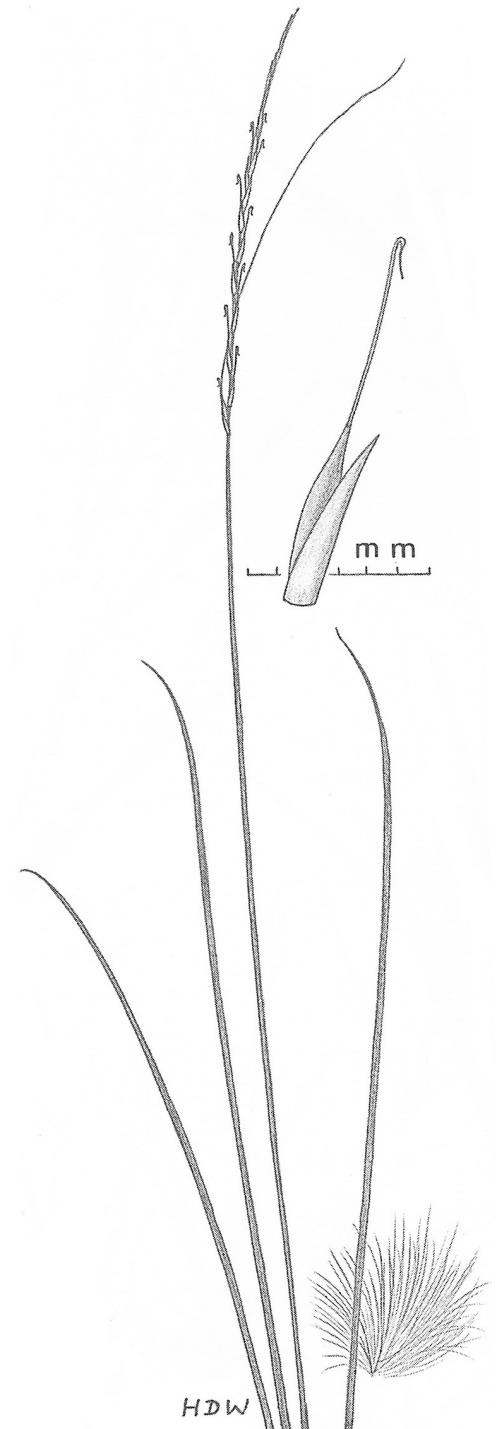
HABITAT

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

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Densely caespitose, dull red or reddish-green (rarely green) plants, 250–400 mm tall. **Culms** c. 300 × c. 0.5 mm, glabrous, subtrigonus 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 × 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, subtrigonus, 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 other Carices 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 for NZPCN by Peter J. de Lange 17 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-egmontiana/>