

Carex erebus

COMMON NAME

Hooker's bastard grass

SYNONYMS

Uncinia hookeri Boott; *Uncinia riparia* R.Br. var. *hookeri* (Boott) Kük.

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex erebus K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

UNCHOO

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 88

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: Antipodes Islands, Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku. Also present on Macquarie Island.

HABITAT

Mostly found in tussock grassland, usually at elevations of 300–600 m a.s.l. Also growing amongst seal colonies at sea level. rarely extending into forest on the Auckland Islands.



Herbarium specimen: AK 51063. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dense, stiff tufts arising from a slender stoloniferous rhizome c. 1mm diameter. **Culms** 40–250 × c. 0.5 mm, glabrous; basal bracts dark brown. **Leaves** 5–9 per culm, much » flowering culms but usually only slightly < fruiting culms, 1.5–2.0 mm wide, dark green, rigid, involute, scabrid on margins and upper surface towards tip. **Spikes** 10–35 × c. 3 mm, greenish brown, female flowers c. 10–20, crowded towards top of spike with internodes 1–3 mm long, more distant in lower third of spike with internodes up to 4 mm long. **Glumes** ± = or slightly > utricles, deciduous, lanceolate, acute, membranous, light or dark brown, usually with a prominent green midrib and two very dark brown lateral veins, margin pale brown. **Utricles** 4–5 mm long, slightly < 1 mm diameter, trigonous or subtrigonous, oblong or lanceolate, light green, nerved, occasionally only faintly so on the two abaxial surfaces, slightly contracted at the base to a stipe c. 1 mm long, beak 1.0–1.5 mm long; strongly spreading when ripe.

SIMILAR TAXA

Carex erebus is closely allied to *C. aucklandica* (Hamlin) K.A.Ford from which it chiefly differs by its more markedly stoloniferous, densely tussock-forming growth habit, wider leaves and spikes, and by the darker coloured, mature utricles.

FLOWERING

November–December

FRUITING

December–February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be 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.

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 erebus* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-erebus/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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