

Carex erythrovaginata

COMMON NAME

lax bastard grass, hook sedge

SYNONYMS

Uncinia laxiflora Petrie

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex erythrovaginata K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

UNCLAX

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 88$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands (as far south as Dunedin)

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Usually in forest, rarely in scrub.

FEATURES

Stout, densely caespitose-tufted, dark green plants. Culms 400.0–750.0 × 0.5–1.0 mm, trigonous, strongly scabrid above; basal bracts dull reddish brown. Leaves 3–6 per culm, < or = culm, 2–3 mm wide, strongly scabrid on margins and upper surface; sheath and basal part of lamina usually reddish pink. Spike 60–100 mm long, female flowers c.10, lax, internodes > mature utricles, 5–14 mm long at base of spike, 2 mm long above; spike often bracteate with lowermost glume leaf-like or setose. Glumes much < utricles, persistent, coriaceous obtuse or lowermost subacute, green with paler margins. Utricles 5–8 × c.1 mm, plano-convex or biconvex, fusiform, very faintly nerved, cuneate below forming a stipe c.1.5 mm long and tapered above to a beak c.2 mm long stipe and beak green, remainder very light grey



Bucks Road, Tararua Forest Park.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Top of spike. Bucks Road, Tararua Forest Park.

SIMILAR TAXA

A very distinctive species easily recognised by the stout, leafy tussock-forming habit, narrow, dark green, flat leaves with strongly scabrid upper leaf surfaces. It is perhaps most similar to *Carex strictissima* (Petrie) K.A.Ford with which it had on occasion been confused. From that species it differs by its obviously leafy, rather than rush-like growth habit and by having 3-6 rather than 1-6, ± flat rather than mostly involute leaves which are 2-3 rather than c.1 mm wide. Further the inflorescences are rather lax rather than stiffly erect

FLOWERING

October - November

FRUITING

November - January (-March)

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. Best in semi-shade.

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-erythrovaginata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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