

# Carex gaudichaudiana

## COMMON NAME

Gaudichaud's sedge

## SYNONYMS

*Carex vulgaris* var. *gaudichaudiana* (Kunth) Boott

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex gaudichaudiana* Kunth

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

CARGAU

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 72

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North and South Islands from about the northern Waikato south. Also in Australia and New Guinea.

## HABITAT

Lowland to alpine in wetlands, bogs and mires, along river flats, in seepages, around the margins of lakes, ponds and tarns.

## FEATURES

Rhizome ascending; tufts flaccid. Rhizomes 1.5-2.0 mm diameter, often long-creeping. Culms variable in size, 20-320 × 0.3-1.0 mm, trigonous, almost glabrous, but often slightly scabrid just below the inflorescence; basal sheaths light brown or grey-brown. Leaves numerous, < or us. > culms, 0.5-2.5 mm wide, double-folded, grass-like, keel, margins and nerves on adaxial surface slightly scabrid towards tip. Inflorescence of 3-5 spikes, ± approximate, usually sessile; uppermost spike male, occasionally compound with a smaller male spike near its base; lower spikes female, often male at the top, 5-20 × 2-5 mm, usually < male spikes. Glumes < utricles, ovate, subacute, dark brown to almost black, coriaceous, midrib narrow to broad, green, scarcely reaching tip of glume. Utricles 2.5-4.0 × 1.5-2.0 mm, narrow-ovoid to orbicular-ovoid, gradually tapering above, much compressed, green with minute red-brown spots when mature, conspicuously nerved, margins smooth; beak almost wanting, orifice entire or minutely bidentate; stipe < 0.5 mm. long. Stigmas 2. Nut 1.5-2 mm. long, biconvex, orbicular-ovoid, dull grey



Mavora lakes, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Lake Wanaka. Photographer: John Barkla

### SIMILAR TAXA

*Carex gaudichaudiana* is most similar to *C. sinclairii* Boott and *C. subdola* Boott from which it is easily distinguished by its overall smaller size, narrower leaves and sessile spikes.

### FLOWERING

October - December

### FRUITING

December - April

### LIFE CYCLE

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

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of established plants. Although a wetland species *C. gaudichaudiana* will grow well in most soils and moisture regimes. Does best in full sun.

### ETYMOLOGY

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

**gaudichaudiana**: After Gaudichaud-Baupre

### ATTRIBUTION

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.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

### MORE INFORMATION

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