Carex hamlinii

COMMON NAMES
Hamlin's hook grass, Hamlin's bastard grass

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Sedges

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Dark green, densely caespitose plants. **Culms** 0.2–0.6 m long, < 0.5 mm diameter, glabrous; basal bracts light brown. **Leaves** 3–6 per culm, = or < culms, 1–2 mm wide, light yellow-green or rarely red, occasionally involute, rather wiry, margins finely scabrid. **Spikes** 40–100 × 3–5 mm, occasionally bracteate, female flowers c. 10–20, distant in lower third of spike with internodes to 9 mm long, more crowded above with internodes 2–5 mm long. **Glumes** usually = but occasionally < or > utricles, deciduous, lanceolate, acute, hyaline, light brown throughout. **Utricles** 5.5–7.0 × c. 1 mm, plano-convex or subtrigonous, elliptic-lanceolate, grey-green, membranous, nerved, erect or spreading when ripe, distinctly contracted below to a stipe slightly < 1.5 mm long, gradually tapered above to a beak 1.5–2.0 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA
This fine-leaved species has a superficial resemblance to *Carex subviridis* K.A.Ford which also has a gracile habit, and rather fine light-green leaves and lax inflorescences. From that species it is easily distinguished by its glabrous rather than scabrid utricles.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand. North Island(Southern Ruahine and Tararua Ranges), South Island (Nelson, Westland, Otago, Fiordland).

HABITAT
Usually associated with the understorey of beech (Nothofagus) forest, growing at elevations of 300–1200 m a.s.l.

GENUS
Carex

FAMILY
Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY
Carex hamlinii K.A.Ford

SYNONYMS
Uncinia astonii Hamlin

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes



Herbarium specimen: AK 289104. Photographed with permission of Auckland Institute and Museum. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 30/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Herbarium specimen: AK 289104. Photographed with permission of Auckland Institute and Museum. Photographer: Jeremy R.

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
November–December

FRUITING
December–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easily 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

WHERE TO BUY
Not Commercially Available

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

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY
Key to indigenous and naturalised Carex in New Zealand

NVS CODE
CARHAM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 88

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally Data Deficient Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

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.

ATTRIBUTION
Fact sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange 17 August 2006. Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970). Some of this factsheet information is derived from Flora of New Zealand Online and is used under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand licence.

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-hamlinii/

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