

# Carex healyi

## COMMON NAMES

harsh-leaved bastard grass, hook sedge

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rather harsh-textured, rigidly erect, densely tufted, yellow-green, olive-green or dull bluish green plants. **Culms** 250–900 mm tall, usually < 1 mm diameter, erect, strongly scabrid towards the top; basal sheaths dark brown. **Leaves** 3–6 per culm, > or = culm, 2–3 mm wide, narrow-linear, moderately scabrid on margins and on upper surface along midvein, tips subacute in shorter leaves, more tapering and filiform in longer leaves. **Spikes** 30–100 long, bracteate, lowermost glume often broad and leaf-like, much > spike, or the midrib greatly extended forming a long filiform awn, female flowers c. 10, lax, internodes to 8 mm long at base of spike, 2–4 mm long above. **Glumes** < or = utricles, persistent, obtuse or lowermost subacute, membranous, very light brown, the midrib of lower glumes often scabrid. **Utricles** 4.5–6.0 × c. 1 mm, plano-convex or subtrigonal, grey-brown, scabrid on both surfaces towards the apex, narrowed above to a beak 1 mm long and scarcely narrowed below to a greenish stipe 1.0–1.5 mm long.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand. North Island from Great Barrier Island and the Kaipara south (most common in the east). South Island (Nelson and thence east of the main divide to about Dunedin).

## HABITAT

Coastal to subalpine. Usually in dense lowland to montane forest. However, also locally common in dune forest and scrub in the northern part of its range.

## GENUS

Carex

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

Carex healyi K.A.Ford

## SYNONYMS

Uncinia leptostachya Raoul var. scabra (Boott) Hook.f.; Uncinia disticha Col.; Uncinia scabra Boott

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October–November

## FRUITING

November–March–(June)

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants. Can be grown in a wide variety of soils from free-draining to permanently moist - but resents water logging. Best in semi-shade.

## 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

CARHEA

## 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

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Endangered |

Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, PF, Sp Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland”](#) Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

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 P.J. de Lange (31 September 2006). Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

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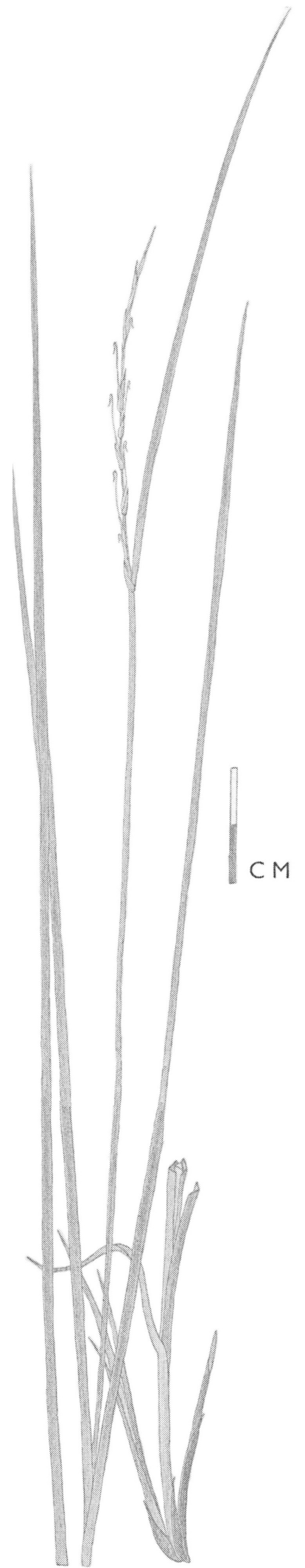
### **MORE INFORMATION**

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

### **PDF DATE**

25 May 2026





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