

Carex horizontalis

COMMON NAME

bastard grass, hook sedge

SYNONYMS

Uncinia caespitosa var. *minor* Kük.; *Uncinia horizontalis* Col.; *Uncinia rupestris* Raoul

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex horizontalis (Colenso) K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

UNCRUP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 88

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North, South and Chatham Islands.

HABITAT

A mainly forest dwelling species. Mostly montane in the North Island (300–1000 m a.s.l.) but becoming more common in lowland areas in the southern South Island. Irrespective of elevation, common throughout forested areas on the Chatham Islands.



Remutaka Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/09/2006, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants loosely tufted or forming a dense turf. **Culms** 100–400 × c. 0.5 mm, drooping or nodding, glabrous, usually slightly scabrid just below inflorescence; basal bracts light brown, not shining. **Leaves** widely spreading, 4–7 per culm, < mature culms, c. 1.5–2.0 mm wide, bright green, soft, channelled, scabrid on margins and upper surface towards apex. **Spikes** 30–60 × 3–5 mm., occasionally bracteate, female flowers 5–33, lax towards base of spike with internodes to 6 mm long, more crowded above with internodes 0.5–1.0 mm long. **Glumes** ± = or us. < utricles, deciduous, ovate, acute or acuminate, hyaline with green midrib or very pale brown. **Utricles** 4.5–6.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm, ovate-lanceolate, trigonous, green to greenish brown, usually smooth except for a prominent lateral nerve but occasionally with a few less distinct nerves, somewhat spreading when ripe, slightly contracted below to a stipe c. 1.0–1.5 mm long, tapering above to a beak of 1–2 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Carex horizontalis is closely allied to *Carex minor* (Kük.) K.A.Ford (a species many regard as part of *C. horizontalis*). In the field *C. horizontalis* can be distinguished from *Carex minor* by its densely leafy, tufted, rather than loosely tufted growth habit, leaves which are 1.5–2.0 mm rather than < 1 mm wide, and utricles which are 1.0–1.5 mm rather than c. 1 mm diameter. *Carex minor* tends to flower earlier (September– October) than *C. horizontalis* (October–November).

FLOWERING

October–November

FRUITING

December–April–(July)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants - though these may take a while to settle. Prefers a permanently damp, shaded site in a deep rich 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).

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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