

# Carex lachenalii subsp. parkeri

## COMMON NAMES

sedge

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted sedge arising from a deeply rooted, ascending rhizome. **Culms** 30–200 × 1 mm, trigonous, wiry and pliant, glabrous, sometimes scabrid above; basal sheaths cream, grey or light brown. **Leaves** < culms, < 2 mm wide, somewhat striated, distinctly channelled or occasionally flat, graminaceous, apices obtuse to subacute, margins faintly serrulate towards the apex. **Inflorescence** a single dark brown terminal head, 8–15 mm long, composed of 2–4 contiguous spikes; subtending bracts scarcely different from glumes. **Spikes** 5–8 mm long, with male flowers confined to the base. **Glumes** slightly  $\leq$  utricle length, broadly ovate, obtuse to sub-acute, dark brown with lighter brown midrib and broad, pale brown, hyaline margins. **Utricles** 2.5–3 × 1.5 mm, plano-convex, oblong-ovoid, indistinctly nerved, margins glabrous, contracted to a narrow, dark brown or black beak 0.5–0.6 long, this puckered below to form a broad, pale brown stipe < 0.5 mm long. **Stigmas** 2. **Nut** 1.5–1.7 mm long, light brown, oblong-obovoid to almost orbicular.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by the very short glume-like bracts subtending the inflorescence, small red-brown spikes and the wingless, scarcely beaked utricles. It is perhaps closest to *C. echinata* Murray, which differs from *C. lachenalii* subsp. *parkeri* by the distant, greenish-brown, rather than red-brown, crowded spikes, and by the mature utricles which spread outwards in a stellate pattern rather than remain compact to form a narrow, terminal spike-like head.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island from Nelson to Fiordland.

## HABITAT

Favouring high elevation sites (> 1000 m.a.s.l.) this sedge has been collected from damp seepages within tussock grassland, from cushion bogs and on the margins of streams.

## THREATS

Believed to be biologically sparse and naturally uncommon. However this sedge is not often collected, and further field work into its conservation status is needed.

## GENUS

Carex

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae



Old Man Range. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Homer tunnel, Jan. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## AUTHORITY

Carex lachenalii subsp. parkeri (Petrie) Toivonen

## SYNONYMS

Carex parkeri Petrie

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October–December

## FRUITING

October–April

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

## 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

CARLSP

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Sparse

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NS, NStr, RR, Sp, St, TL 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.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-lachenalii-subsp-parkeri/>

## PDF DATE

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