

Carex parvispica

COMMON NAME

Sinclair's hook sedge, Sinclair's bastard grass

SYNONYMS

Uncinia sinclairii Boott in Hook.f.

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex parvispica K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

UNCSIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 94, 96

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: Sp

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island in the east from near Tarndale, Marlborough south.

HABITAT

Low montane to subalpine in wet or boggy ground within tussock grassland. In Otago it is often found at the base of tors, stream banks, or in seepages.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Blue-grey to dark green shortly rhizomatous, spreading, turf-forming sedge. **Rhizomes** 1–2 mm diameter. **Culms** 70–300 × 0.5–1 mm, erect, usually glabrous, though occasionally faintly scabrid just below inflorescence; basal bracts dull grey-brown. **Leaves** 6–9 per culm, blue-grey to dark green, < or rarely almost equal to culm in length, 1.5–4 mm wide, very stiff. **Spikes** 10–20 × 4–7 mm, oblong to obovate, ebracteate, male flowers obscured by 10–15 larger surrounding female flowers, close-set, internodes about equal. **Glumes** same length as utricles, persistent, ovate, obtuse or subacute, coriaceous, straw-coloured, rarely light greyish brown with abroad, pale green midrib, the central nerves thickened and conspicuous. **Utricles** 4.5–6 × 1.5–2 mm, plano-convex, elliptical, coriaceous, grey-brown, nerved below and with a prominent lateral nerve, hispid on margins and both surfaces of upper half, beak and stipe scarcely narrowed, 0.5 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Very close to *Carex subtilis* K.A.Ford from which it differs by its much broader, rather stiff, blue-grey to dark green leaves, broader spikes and utricles. The utricles are more prominently nerved than those of *C. subtilis*, while the glumes are invariably straw-coloured rather than dark brown or brown-tinged.

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

October–June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Has been cultivated. It is easily grown but rather slow to establish. Fresh seed germinates easily and plants can be grown by division. Its exact requirements are not clear, though it dislikes humidity and will not flower in northern New Zealand without cold treatment.

THREATS

Believed to be a naturally uncommon, ecologically sparse species. However it is poorly known from large parts of its reported range. Further survey to ascertain its exact status is much desired.

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). Fact sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange (17 August 2006).

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Carex parvispica* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-parvispica/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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