

# Carex raoulii

## COMMON NAME

coastal forest sedge, Raoul's sedge

## SYNONYMS

*C. macmahoni* Petrie

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex raoulii* Boott

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

CARRAO

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 46$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Data Deficient

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. Exact distribution uncertain.

## HABITAT

Sedge of coastal and lowland shrublands.



*Carex raoulii*. Photographer: Cathy Jones



*Carex raoulii* close up of spikelet.  
Photographer: Colin Ogle

## FEATURES

Densely tufted, tussock-forming, dark-yellow green/wine-red sedge. Culms 50-90cm × 0.5-1mm, 3-angled (trigonous), scabrid below inflorescence, greatly elongating at maturity, sometimes 3 m long. Basal sheaths dark grey-brown. Leaves < culms 2-4 mm wide, double-folded, soft, grassy, margins finely scabrid. Inflorescence of 5-7 unstalked, closely, clustered 1-4 cm x 4-7 mm spikes, arranged at top of culm, proximal portion of terminal spike female, basally male, remaining spikes all female. Glumes (excluding awn) = or < utricles, very broadly ovate, apex often cleft, membranous, colourless with few small red brown lines, pale cream midrib extending beyond to form finely scabrid awn. Utricles 2-3 × 1.5 mm, Plano-convex, elliptic-obovoid, light reddish brown, usually with distinct pale brown nerves, slightly winged, usually scabrid on margins, and on both surfaces of upper half. Beak 0.5-1 mm long, bifid, orifice finely scabrid. Stigmas 2. Nut c.1.5 mm, biconvex, obovoid, light to dark brown.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to a distinctive, apparently unnamed (C.C. Ogle pers. comm.) sedge which is common throughout the sand country and coastal cliffs and shrublands of the western North Island, as well as locally present elsewhere. That sedge (known by the tag name C. "raotest") differs from *C. raoulii* by the terminal spikelets all male. This is sometimes subtended by a reduced female spikelet.

## FLOWERING

No information available

## FRUITING

No information available

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown by division and from fresh seed.

## THREATS

Because of frequent confusion with the somewhat similar *Carex* 'raotest' the exact distribution and status of *Carex raoulii* is unclear. It is certainly less common than indicated by Flora 2, which included the very common *C. 'raotest'* within *C. raoulii*. Present indications are that *C. raoulii* might be rather uncommon.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**raoulii**: After Raoul

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (10 August 2006). Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora.

Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Carex raoulii* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated).

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-raoulii/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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