

Carex scoparia

COMMON NAMES

broom sedge

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Very dense green grass-like tufts up to 1 m tall, leaves conspicuously arranged in three planes, with slightly taller flower stem bearing pale green or yellow-brown oval heads near the tip.

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Green

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Very dense leafy tufts up to 90 cm high. **Stems** slender, sharply 3-angled, scabrid on margins below inflorescence. **Leaves** < stems, 2–3 mm wide, $\pm$ flat. **Inflorescence** 2–6 cm long, of 4–12 very clearly defined sessile spikes aggregated into an oblong or linear-oblong head; one or two lower spikes with small inconspicuous setaceous bracts < inflorescence. **Spikes** androgynous, male flowers at base, oblong or ovoid-oblong, tapering or rounded at apex. **Glumes** < utricles, lanceolate, acute, narrower than utricles at tip, light brown or white-hyaline, midrib green. **Utricles** $\pm 4 \times 1$ –1.5 mm, lanceolate to narrow ovate-lanceolate, flat, faintly nerved on each side, greenish to brownish, $\pm$ narrowly winged throughout, minutely scabrid on margins of upper half, tapering to a beak ± 1 mm long. **Stigmas** 2. **Nut** ovoid-oblong.

SIMILAR TAXA

Two other *Carex* spp. have oval spikes (*C. leporina* and *C. longii*). *C. scoparia* is more robust than the other species and usually has more spikes per culm (see comparison with *C. ovalis* in photo).

DISTRIBUTION

Scattered throughout the North island, absent from most eastern areas.

HABITAT

Swamps and lake margins.

GENUS

Carex

FAMILY

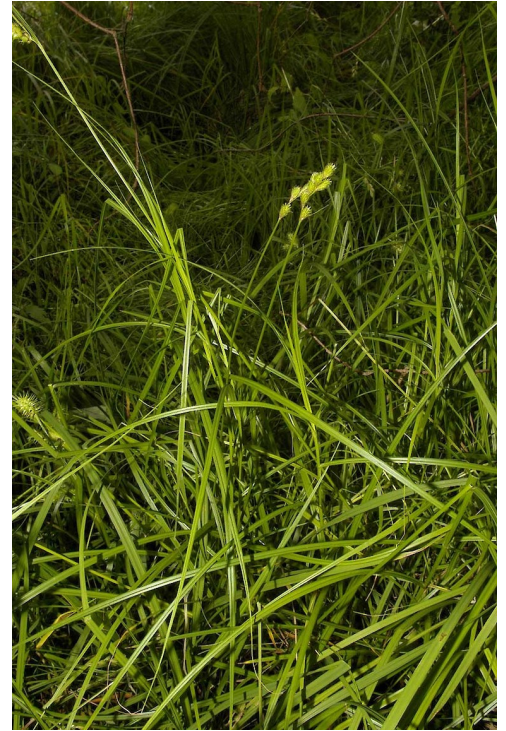
Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex scoparia Willd.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No



Carex scoparia, Howarth wetland, Te Aroha.
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Carex scoparia. Howarth wetland, Te Aroha.
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ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Late spring to early summer

FRUITING

Summer to autumn

YEAR NATURALISED

1948

ORIGIN

North America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, seed or soil contaminant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seed dispersed by contaminated machinery or waterfowl.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found 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

CARSCO

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion P. et al. 2020. Freshwater Invasive Species of New Zealand 2020. NIWA publication.

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Healy AJ, Edgar E. 1980. Flora of New Zealand, Volume III. Adventive Cyperaceous, Petalous and Spathaceous Monocotyledons. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 220 p.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA. 1989. Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington, NZ. 319 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Healy and Edgar (1980).

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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