

Carex sectoides

COMMON NAME

sedge

SYNONYMS

Carex appressa R.Br. var. *sectoides* Kük.; *Carex secta* Boot var. *sectoides* (Kük.) Cheeseman

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex sectoides (Kük.) Edgar

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = c.64-68$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Chatham and Antipodes Island groups.

HABITAT

Widespread along stream, lake and pond margins and in seepages, flushes, and around shallow ephemeral pools. Usually in open, well lighted situations but also may be fringing streams running through successional forest.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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



Chatham Islands. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Carex sectoides at Gillespies stream. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Robust, tussock forming sedge up to 2 × 1 m, arising from a stout trunk-like base (comprised of densely interwoven former roots) up to 1 m tall. **Culms** 0.15–1.8 m × 2–3 mm, triquetrous, margins razor sharp, scabrid, robust, curved over toward apices; basal sheaths grey-brown. **Leaves** = to or < culms, 5–8 mm wide, deeply channelled, with strongly scabrid, razor-sharp margins. **Inflorescence** a broad, heavy, greyish-brown to brown panicle 70–80 mm long, with numerous stiff, crowded branchlets up to 40 mm long, the lowermost usually distant. **Spikes** numerous, more or less sessile, red-brown, 4–5-flowered, male flowers at apex. **Glumes** > utricles, ovate-lanceolate, acute or lower glumes of spike awned, brownish-hyaline, faintly nerved, with a paler brown thickened midrib. **Utricles** 2.5–3.8 × 1–1.8 mm, unequally biconvex, elliptic-ovoid, smooth on curved face, very faintly nerved on the flatter face, light yellow-brown, later dark brown, more or less shining; beak 1 mm long, strongly bifid, with green, winged, strongly scabrid on margins; stipe 0.5 mm long. **Stigmas** 2. **Nut** slightly < 2 mm long, biconvex, narrow-obovoid, pale grey, greyish-white to white.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *C. secta* Boott from which it differs by its much larger, stouter over all habit, and denser more rigid, crowded inflorescences with shorter branchlets. On Chatham (Rekohu) Island *C. sectoides* is sympatric with *C. secta*.

FLOWERING

September–December

FRUITING

December–June

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and rooted pieces. Prefers cool climate and does best in standing water. Does not tolerate humidity or drought. On account of the very sharp leaf and culm margins care is needed when handling this sedge.

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (10 August 2006). 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.

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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