Carex silvestris

COMMON NAME
forest bastard grass, hook sedge

SYNONYMS
Uncinia silvestris Hamlin

FAMILY
Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY
(Hamlin) K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Sedges

NVS CODE
UNCSIL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 88

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Carex silvestris (Hamlin) K.A.Ford

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand, North Island (Pureora and the Kaimai Range south), South and Stewart Islands

HABITAT
Lowland to upper montane forest. Often rather local and probably warranting listing as Naturally Uncommon/Sparse.
FEATURES
Bright green, densely caespitose plants. Culms 200.0-400.0 × c.0.5 mm, glabrous; basal bracts light cinnamon-brown or yellow-brown, not shining. Leaves 4-5 per culm, ± = or slightly > culms, 0.5-2.0 mm wide, bright green, tapering to a long filiform tip, scabrid on margins and on upper surface towards leaf-tip. Spikes 35-100 × 2–3 mm, often bracteate with the leaf-like bract much > spike, female flowers c.10–20, internodes 3-5 mm long towards base of spike, 1-2 mm long above. Glumes much < utricles, persistent, ovate, acute or subacute, membranous, very faintly nerved, midrib pale green. Utricles 3.5-5.0 mm long, slightly < 1 mm diameter, plano-convex, concavo-convex or subtrigonous, oblong or ovoid-lanceolate, light green, rarely greenish brown, membranous, few-nerved or smooth, stipe c.1 mm long, narrowed above to a distinct beak 1.0-1.5 mm long

SIMILAR TAXA
Distinguished from all other species with persistent glumes by the glabrous culms and glumes which are conspicuously shorter than the utricles (see also Carex egmontiana (Hamlin) K.A.Ford)

FLOWERING
October - November

FRUITING
November - February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants. Prefers a permanently moist, peaty soil but will grow in most substrates. Best in semi-shade.

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

WHERE TO BUY
Not Commercially Available

ATRIBUTION
Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

MORE INFORMATION