

# Carex subviridis

## COMMON NAME

hook sedge, bastard grass, hook grass

## SYNONYMS

*Uncinia distans* Col. ex Boott; *Uncinia nelmesii* Hamlin

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex subviridis* K.A.Ford

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

UNCDIS

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 88

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

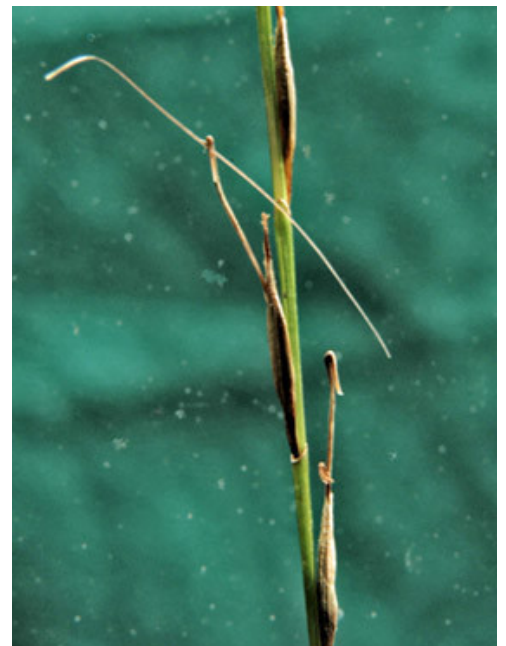
Endemic. New Zealand. North and South Islands. Often sparsely distributed but locally common in the Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Auckland and Northland.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Usually in forest, especially alluvial and riparian forest, or in dune forest. Also common in karst country around sink holes, tomo and within dolines..



Utricles with exerted stigmas. Eastern Wairarapa (from specimen collected by Pat Enright). Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Gordon Park, Wanganui. Feb 2007.  
Photographer: Colin Ogle

## FEATURES

Rather gracile, very light- to dark green, tussock-forming, plants. Culms 250.0-600.0 × 0.5 mm, slightly scabrid above; basal sheaths light brown or reddish, occasionally enclosing the culm for more than half its length. Leaves 4-7 per culm, culms, 1.5-3.0 mm wide, sharply scabrid on margins, slightly scabrid on upper surface towards tip. Spikes 40-140 mm long, often bracteate, lowermost glumes occasionally leaf-like and much > spike, male portion relatively long, female flowers c.10-20, ± distant, internodes 6-12 mm long below, 2 mm long above. Glumes < utricles, deciduous, acute, lower 2-3 acuminate and often produced to a scabrid awn, membranous, green. Utricles 5.5-9.0 × c.1.0 mm., plano-convex, narrow-oblong, light green or light brown, distinctly nerved, beak 1.5-2.0 mm long, narrow, with scabrid margins and occasionally a few teeth on the abaxial surface, stipe 1.5-2.0 mm long, narrow

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Carex hamlinii* K.A.Ford, another fine-leaved hook sedge has a superficial resemblance to *C. subviridis*. Both species have a similar gracile growth habit, and rather fine light-green leaves and lax inflorescences. However, *Carex hamlinii* is a more southerly species of higher altitude forest, which is easily distinguished from *C. subviridis* by its glabrous rather than scabrid utricles. In the northern part of its range *Carex subviridis* may grow with another fine-leaved species *Carex banksiana* K.A.Ford, from which it differs by its greater stature, and scabrid rather than glabrous utricles.

## FLOWERING

October - December

## FRUITING

November - June

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants - though these may take a while to settle. Prefers moist soil in a semi-shaded site. However, once established will tolerate a wide range of conditions except waterlogging.

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

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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