

Cyperus alternifolius subsp. flabelliformis

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Distinctive sedge with almost rounded stems up to 80 cm, with many leaves at the top of each otherwise leafless stem, underneath an open flower head with many stalked clusters of flattened green spikes.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizome short, stout. **Stems** to 60 cm high, stout, subterete. **Leaves** reduced to closely appressed, very pale brown basal sheaths. **Involucral bracts** many, \pm equal, to 25 cm \times 10 mm, > inflorescence, tips shortly acuminate. **Inflorescence** a compound umbel; rays many, to 8 cm long. **Spikelets** in small clusters at tips of rays, \pm 4 \times 2 mm, ovoid to linear-oblong, compressed, shining. **Glumes** densely imbricate, \pm 2 mm long, ovate, obtuse, hyaline, white to light brown with green keel. **Stamens** 3. **Style-branches** 3. **Nut** \pm $\frac{1}{3}$ length of glume, trigonous, ovoid-ellipsoid, brown (Healy and Edgar, 1980).

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to a small papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus* L.) and sometimes sold under that name, differing in the presence of persistent leaf-like bracts and upright flower stalks in *Cyperus alternifolius* subsp. *flabellatus*, rather than deciduous bracts and filamentous, drooping, mostly sterile flower stalks of papyrus.

DISTRIBUTION

Scattered in many parts of North island (usually close to habitation) and also in Christchurch.

HABITAT

Margins of water bodies and in drains.

GENUS

Cyperus

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Cyperus alternifolius subsp. *flabelliformis* Kük.

SYNONYMS

Cyperus flabelliformis Rottb.; *Cyperus involucratus* Rottb.



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ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Summer to autumn

FRUITING

Summer to autumn

YEAR NATURALISED

1973

ORIGIN

Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental plant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Deliberate planting or garden waste dumpings.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

cyperus: From the ancient Greek name for sedge, kypeiros

NVS CODE

CYPASF

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

<https://docs.niwa.co.nz/library/public/FreInSpec.pdf>

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

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cyperus-alternifolius-subsp-flabelliformis/>

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