Cyperus sanguinolentus

COMMON NAME
Louisiana flatsedge

SYNONYMS
Pycreus sanguinolentus (Vahl) Nees

FAMILY
Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY
Cyperus sanguinolentus Vahl

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Sedges

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not assessed

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Tufted yellow-green leafy sedge, with triangular stems up to 40 cm tall, with 1 or occasionally 2 or 3 distinctively green and purple red striped flowerheads, each made up of flattened flower spikes, with two to three grass-like leaves immediately under this, at the end of flower stalk.

DISTRIBUTION
Restricted to Northland and Auckland.

HABITAT
Wet pasture, margins of water bodies and drains.

FEATURES
Tufted annual. Stems to 40 cm high, very slender in small plants but more rigid in larger ones, 3-angled, very leafy at base. Leaves < stems, to 2.5 mm wide, margins smooth except near tip. Involucral bracts 2-3, very widely spreading, unequal, at least the lowest >, to very much > inflorescence. Inflorescence a single head or small umbel with few very short rays. Spikelets in ovoid dark clusters, oblong or oblong-lanceolate, 4-8 × 2 mm, much compressed. Glumes not closely imbricate, ± 2 mm long, ovate, obtuse, with broad green keel and dark red-purple patch at tip and purple band inside the green margin. Stamens 3 or 2. Style-branches 2. Nut ± ½ length of glume, orbicular-ovoid, biconvex, black.

SIMILAR TAXA
Most similar to the native Schoenus apogon, but the dark purple lined green flattened spikelets and triangular stems distinguish P. sanguinolentus from this species.

FLOWERING
Summer to autumn

FLOWER COLOURS
Green, Purple

FRUITING
Summer to autumn
LIFE CYCLE
Seed dispersed by contaminated machinery.

YEAR NATURALISED
1944

ORIGIN
North Africa, Asia and Australia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Unknown, possibly ornamental plant, seed or soil contaminant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES
Not controlled in New Zealand.

ETYMOLOGY
cyperus: From the ancient Greek name for sedge, kypeiros

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING


MORE INFORMATION