

Machaerina sinclairii

COMMON NAME

machaerina

SYNONYMS

Vincentia anceps Hook.f., Cladium sinclairii Hook.f., Cladium gahnoides Colenso, Vincentia sinclairii (Hook.f.) Hamlin

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Machaerina sinclairii (Hook.f.) Koyama

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

MACSIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.30

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

North Island only from Northland to the northern Rimutaka Range. Also recorded from Malaysia.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane (up to 900 m a.s.l.). usually in seepages draining cliff faces where it is often the dominant vegetative cover. Although favouring sunny situations Machaerina is equally at home around cave entrances, and within tall forest along river banks, stream sides and steep gorges. Occasionally it colonises permanently damp sites within dense forest.



Machaerina sinclairii. Photographer: Peter de Lange



Machaerina sinclairii. Photographer: Peter de Lange

FEATURES

Stout, leafy sedge. Culms 0.5-1.2 m long, 3-5 mm wide, smooth, laterally compressed flaccid. Leaves numerous, suberect, spreading with upper 1/2 to 1/3 distinctly flaccid, 0.3-2.5 m long, 10-35 mm wide, flat, smooth, lustrous, pale to dark green, tapering to an acuminate apex, margins smooth. Panicle 150-480 mm long, pendulous, much-branched; lowermost sheathing bract with ciliate mouth and lamina up to 30 mm long; branches in fascicles from upper sheaths. Spikelets numerous, 3-4 mm long, in small fascicles towards the tips of the branchlets, red-brown, 2-4-flowered, usually the lowest 1-2 flowers fertile. Glumes 5-7, ovate-lanceolate, acuminate to almost awned, scabrid-pubescent, lower 2-3 sterile. Hypogynous bristles 0. Stamens elongating after flowering, filaments bright red-brown. Nut (including beak) 2.0-2.5 mm long, < 1 mm wide, acutely trigonous, almost winged, fusiform, brown, narrowed above and below to a prominent 3-angled beak and stipe each more or less = to body of nut in length

SIMILAR TAXA

Machaerina complanata is somewhat similar but has much narrower (4-8 mm cf. 10-30(-40) mm) leaves, and more open, less pendulous, erect to suberect, non-fluffy inflorescences rather than the distinctive fluffy brown more pendulous ones typical of *Machaerina*. The style base of *Machaerina complanata* is usually turgid, much shorter than the nut and usually inconspicuous while in *Machaerina sinclairii* the style-base is about the same length as the nut, and though rather narrow is quite conspicuous. *Machaerina complanata* and *M. sinclairii* have so far never been found growing sympatrically.

FLOWERING

September - December

FRUITING

November - April (but old inflorescences present throughout the year)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Very easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of established plants. An attractive sedge that is now frequently available from most garden centres and plant nurseries. It does best in a permanently damp soil but is tolerant of full sun or shade. However, plants flower best in full sun. A beautiful plant to establish around ponds and streams.

ETYMOLOGY

sinclairii: After Sinclair (c. 1796-1861). Colonial Secretary and naturalist.

WHERE TO BUY

Commonly available from mainline and specialist native plant nurseries.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (8 September 2006). Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970)

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): *Machaerina sinclairii* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/machaerina-sinclairii/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/machaerina-sinclairii/>