

# Uncinia viridis

## COMMON NAME

green bastard grass, bastard grass, hook sedge

## SYNONYMS

*Uncinia caespitosa* Boott var. *viridis* (C.B.Clarke) Hamlin; *Uncinia compacta* R.Br. var. *viridis* C.B.Clarke

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Uncinia viridis* (C.B.Clarke) Edgar

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

UNCVIR

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 88

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura. In the North Island found mainly in and around the Central Volcanic Plateau and the adjoining main axial mountain ranges. In the South Island more widespread from Nelson to Otago and probably Southland. Said to be common on Stewart Island/Rakiura.

## HABITAT

Montane to alpine in wet hollows within tussock grassland and herbfield. Never common.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Openly caespitose to shortly rhizomatous bright green sedge. **Culms** 20–250 mm long, usually < 1 mm diameter, glabrous; basal bracts dull yellow-brown to dark brown. **Leaves** 7–8 per culm, ≤ culms, 1.5–2 mm wide, channelled, somewhat rigid, curving downwards, coriaceous, bright green, glossy, scabrid on margins and undersides. **Spikes** 15–50 × 3–4 mm, sometimes bracteate, female flowers 5–15, close-set, internodes 1–2 mm. **Glumes** > utricles, deciduous, ovate, subacute to acuminate, pale brown-green to light brown, membranous. **Utricles** 4.5–5 × 1.5 mm, trigonous, ovate, green to grey-brown, rather dull, smooth aside from prominent lateral nerves, slightly pinched below a 1 mm long stipe, and tapered above to a 1.5 mm long beak.



Mangatepopo (February). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Rather similar to *Carex edura* K.A.Ford from which it is well marked by its bright green rather than yellow-green to brown-green foliage and culms. It also differs by its fewer flowered spikelets. Plants could be confused with *Carex astricta* K.A.Ford, *C. horizontalis* (Colenso) K.A.Ford and *C. lectissima* K.A.Ford but those species have longer culms (up to 400 mm in *C. astricta* and *C. horizontalis*, to 300 mm in *C. lectissima* cf. up to 250 mm in *U. viridis*), broader dark green leaves and spikes with 10–35 flowers (5–15 in *U. viridis*). The utricles of *C. astricta* (5–7 mm) and *C. horizontalis* (4.5–6 mm) are longer than those of *U. viridis* (4.5–5 mm).

## FLOWERING

October–December

## FRUITING

October–June

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of established plants. Prefers a damp spot in full sun. Dislikes excessive humidity and will not tolerate prolonged drought.

## THREATS

A naturally uncommon, biologically sparse species occurring in widely scattered, sometimes quite extensive populations.

## ETYMOLOGY

**uncinia**: From the Latin uncus 'hook', meaning hooked or barbed

**viridis**: From the Latin viridis 'green'

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 August 2004). Description based on Moore & Edgar (1961), see also Lehnbach (2011) where this species is treated as a synonym of *Uncinia rupestris*.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Lehnbach CA. 2011. Re-evaluating species limits in *Uncinia angustifolia*, *U. caespitosa* s.str., *U. rupestris*, *U. viridis* and *U. zotovii* (Cyperaceae). *Australian Systematic Botany* 24(6): 405–420. <https://doi.org/10.1071/SB11014>.

Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/uncinia-viridis/>