

Carex lachenalii subsp. parkeri

COMMON NAMES

sedge

BIOSTATUS

Native

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted sedge arising from a deeply rooted, ascending rhizome. **Culms** 30–200 × 1 mm, trigonous, wiry and pliant, glabrous, sometimes scabrid above; basal sheaths cream, grey or light brown. **Leaves** < culms, < 2 mm wide, somewhat striated, distinctly channelled or occasionally flat, graminaceous, apices obtuse to subacute, margins faintly serrulate towards the apex. **Inflorescence** a single dark brown terminal head, 8–15 mm long, composed of 2–4 contiguous spikes; subtending bracts scarcely different from glumes. **Spikes** 5–8 mm long, with male flowers confined to the base. **Glumes** slightly \leq utricle length, broadly ovate, obtuse to sub-acute, dark brown with lighter brown midrib and broad, pale brown, hyaline margins. **Utricles** 2.5–3 × 1.5 mm, plano-convex, oblong-ovoid, indistinctly nerved, margins glabrous, contracted to a narrow, dark brown or black beak 0.5–0.6 long, this puckered below to form a broad, pale brown stipe < 0.5 mm long. **Stigmas** 2. **Nut** 1.5–1.7 mm long, light brown, oblong-obovoid to almost orbicular.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by the very short glume-like bracts subtending the inflorescence, small red-brown spikes and the wingless, scarcely beaked utricles. It is perhaps closest to *C. echinata* Murray, which differs from *C. lachenalii* subsp. *parkeri* by the distant, greenish-brown, rather than red-brown, crowded spikes, and by the mature utricles which spread outwards in a stellate pattern rather than remain compact to form a narrow, terminal spike-like head.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island from Nelson to Fiordland.

HABITAT

Favouring high elevation sites (> 1000 m.a.s.l.) this sedge has been collected from damp seepages within tussock grassland, from cushion bogs and on the margins of streams.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT

THREATS

Believed to be biologically sparse and naturally uncommon. However this sedge is not often collected, and further field work into its conservation status is needed.

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Cyperaceae



Old Man Range. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Homer tunnel, Jan. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

AUTHORITY

Carex lachenalii subsp. parkeri (Petrie) Toivonen

SYNONYMS

Carex parkeri Petrie

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

October–April

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Nuts surrounded by inflated utricles are dispersed by granivory and wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

OTHER INFORMATION

ETYMOLOGY

carex: Latin name for a species of sedge, now applied to the whole group.

NVS CODE

CARLSP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Sparse

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11*: 285–309.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-lachenalii-subsp-parkeri/>

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