

Carex druceana

COMMON NAMES

Druce's sedge

SYNONYMS

C. druceana Hamlin var. *druceana*

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex druceana Hamlin

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

CARDRU

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: St

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: St

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Data Deficient

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Ruahine Ranges. South Island, north west Nelson.

HABITAT

Sub alpine to alpine sedge of damp ground in tussock grassland.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Light reddish green tufted sedge 10–0 cm tall. **Culms** smooth, circular in cross-section (terete), 0.5–1 mm diameter. **Basal sheaths** grey-brown or light brown. **Leaves** > culms, up to 35 cm long, (1)–1.5–(2.2) mm wide, flat, concave or convex, red, margins scabrid (with teeth), tip curled. **Inflorescence** of 4–6 unstalked, closely-packed, 0.5–1–(1.5) cm × 3–5 mm, ovate or cylindrical spikes; male spikes at the base, female at the top. **Glumes** ≤ utricles (fruits), broadly ovate or oblong, pale brown with red markings, apex cleft, with the green midrib extending as a scabrid 2 mm long awn. **Utricles** c. 2.5 × 1.3–1.5 mm, ovoid to rhomboid, 3-angled (trigonus) or irregularly inflated, yellowish with red near tip, beak minute (0.3 mm), black or dark brown. **Stigmas** 3. **Nut** c. 1 × 1 mm, elliptic-obovoid, 3-angled, cream to dark brown.



In cultivation ex Ruahine Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation ex Ruahine Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Carex astonii* (which is treated as a variety of *C. druceana* in Moore & Edgar (1970)) from which it is distinguished by its wider leaves ((1)–1.5–(2.2) mm vs. 0.7–1.2 mm in *C. astonii*), clustered rather than distant spikelets, and by its longer awns (up to 2 mm, those of *C. astonii* up to 0.5 mm). *Carex astonii* is confined to the Kaimanawa and Ruahine Ranges, while *C. druceana* extends to north west Nelson.

FLOWERING

No information available

FRUITING

No information available

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown by division and from fresh seed.

THREATS

Carex druceana is probably not threatened but there are very few recent (>1980) collections.

ETYMOLOGY

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

druceana: After A.P. Druce, one of New Zealand's most respected field botanists

ATTRIBUTION

.Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (10 August 2006). Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970) Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-druceana/>

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