

Carex raoulii

COMMON NAMES

coastal forest sedge, Raoul's sedge

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Densely tufted, tussock-forming, dark-yellow green/wine-red sedge.

Culms 50–90 cm × 0.5–1 mm, 3-angled (trigonous), scabrid below inflorescence, greatly elongating at maturity, sometimes 3 m long. **Basal sheaths** dark grey-brown. **Leaves** < culms 2–4 mm wide, double-folded, soft, grassy, margins finely scabrid. **Inflorescence** of 5–7 unstalked, closely, clustered 1–4 cm × 4–7 mm spikes, arranged at top of culm, proximal portion of terminal spike female, basally male, remaining spikes all female. **Glumes** (excluding awn) ≤ utricles, very broadly ovate, apex often cleft, membranous, colourless with few small red brown lines, pale cream midrib extending beyond to form finely scabrid awn. **Utricles** 2–3 × 1.5 mm, plano-convex, elliptic-obovoid, light reddish brown, usually with distinct pale brown nerves, slightly winged, usually scabrid on margins, and on both surfaces of upper half. **Beak** 0.5–1 mm long, bifid, orifice finely scabrid. **Stigmas** 2. **Nut** c. 1.5 mm, biconvex, obovoid, light to dark brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to a distinctive, apparently unnamed (C.C. Ogle pers. comm.) sedge which is common throughout the sand country and coastal cliffs and shrublands of the western North Island, as well as locally present elsewhere. That sedge (known by the tag name *C. "raotest"*) differs from *C. raoulii* by the terminal spikelets all male. This is sometimes subtended by a reduced female spikelet.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. Exact distribution uncertain.

HABITAT

Sedge of coastal and lowland shrublands.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

THREATS

Because of frequent confusion with the somewhat similar *Carex* 'raotest' the exact distribution and status of *Carex raoulii* is unclear. It is certainly less common than indicated by Moore & Edgar (1970), who included the very common *C. 'raotest'* within *C. raoulii*. Present indications are that *C. raoulii* might be rather uncommon.

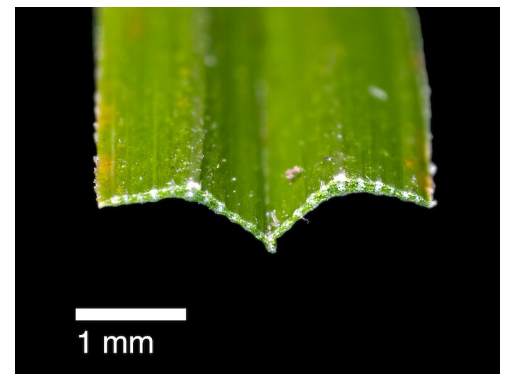
DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Cyperaceae



Spikelets. Palliser Bay. From a specimen collected by Pat Enright. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 12/02/2011, Licence: CC BY.



Transverse section of leaf. Palliser Bay. From a specimen collected by Pat Enright. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 12/02/2011, Licence: CC BY.

AUTHORITY

Carex raoulii Boott

SYNONYMS

C. macmahoni Petrie

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

No information available

FRUITING

No information available

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown by division and from fresh seed.

OTHER INFORMATION

ETYMOLOGY

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

raoulii: After Raoul

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to indigenous and naturalised Carex in New Zealand](#)

NVS CODE

CARRAO

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 46

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Data Deficient

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2024 | At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, Sp Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Regional conservation status of indigenous vascular plants in Otago](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2024) report.

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

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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

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