

Carex hamlinii

COMMON NAMES

Hamlin's hook grass, Hamlin's bastard grass

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dark green, densely caespitose plants. **Culms** 0.2–0.6 m long, < 0.5 mm diameter, glabrous; basal bracts light brown. **Leaves** 3–6 per culm, = or < culms, 1–2 mm wide, light yellow-green or rarely red, occasionally involute, rather wiry, margins finely scabrid. **Spikes** 40–100 × 3–5 mm, occasionally bracteate, female flowers c. 10–20, distant in lower third of spike with internodes to 9 mm long, more crowded above with internodes 2–5 mm long. **Glumes** usually = but occasionally < or > utricles, deciduous, lanceolate, acute, hyaline, light brown throughout. **Utricles** 5.5–7.0 × c. 1 mm, plano-convex or subtrigonus, elliptic-lanceolate, grey-green, membranous, nerved, erect or spreading when ripe, distinctly contracted below to a stipe slightly < 1.5 mm long, gradually tapered above to a beak 1.5–2.0 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

This fine-leaved species has a superficial resemblance to *Carex subviridis* K.A.Ford which also has a gracile habit, and rather fine light-green leaves and lax inflorescences. From that species it is easily distinguished by its glabrous rather than scabrid utricles.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand. North Island (Southern Ruahine and Tararua Ranges), South Island (Nelson, Westland, Otago, Fiordland).

HABITAT

Usually associated with the understorey of beech (*Nothofagus*) forest, growing at elevations of 300–1200 m a.s.l.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex hamlinii K.A.Ford

SYNONYMS

Uncinia astonii Hamlin

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



Herbarium specimen: AK 289104.

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Herbarium specimen: AK 289104.

Photographed with permission of Auckland Institute and Museum. Photographer: Jeremy R.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

November–December

FRUITING

December–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of established plants (though these may then take a while to settle). Prefers a shaded site, and should be planted within a deep, rich, free draining but permanently moist soil

OTHER INFORMATION

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ETYMOLOGY

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

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

CARHAM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 88

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2024 | Regionally Data Deficient 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.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange 17 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-hamlinii/>

