

# Carex astricta

## COMMON NAMES

bastard grass, hook sedge

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Weakly tufted, dark green to yellow-green plants. **Culms** 40–400 × 0.5–1.0 mm, glabrous; basal bracts dull dark brown or chestnut-brown. **Leaves** 6–11 per culm, ≤ culms, 2–4 mm wide, rather stiff, often curved, dark green to yellow-green, rather flat but with midrib evident on abaxial surface, scabrid on margins and adaxial surface. **Spikes** 25–90 mm long, often bracteate, subclavate, 4–5 mm diameter in the female portion of spike, male portion more slender, usually conspicuous, c. 2 mm diameter and  $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{3}$  the length of the whole spike; female flowers 10–35, almost all closely crowded, internodes 1–5 mm long. **Glumes** > utricles in lower part of spike, = utricles above, deciduous, ovate or subulate, acute or acuminate, membranous, greenish brown or light brown, usually striated, midrib green with 3 distinct nerves, later becoming dark brown. **Utricles** 5.0–7.0 × 1.5–2.0 mm, trigonous, broadly ovoid, 1.0–1.5 mm long, beak 1–2 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Carex astricta* shares with *C. crispera* K.A.Ford and *C. horizontalis* (Colenso) K.A.Ford brownish glumes which in the lower part of the spike are longer than the utricles. It differs from *Carex crispera* by its virtual restriction to forested habitats, by the leaf apices which are flat rather than curled/twisted (cirrhose) and by the dull rather than shiny utricles. From *Carex horizontalis* it differs by its preference for forested rather than tussock grassland and herbfield habitats, yellow-green to dark-green rather than bright green leaves with flat, rather than v-shaped leaf apices, and spikes which are greater than 40 mm long rather than 30 mm or less.

## DISTRIBUTION

New Zealand: North Island, South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura from about the Hauhangaroa and Raukumara Range south.

## HABITAT

.Montane forest, forest margins and damp sites within grassland. Descending to sea level in southern part of its range

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

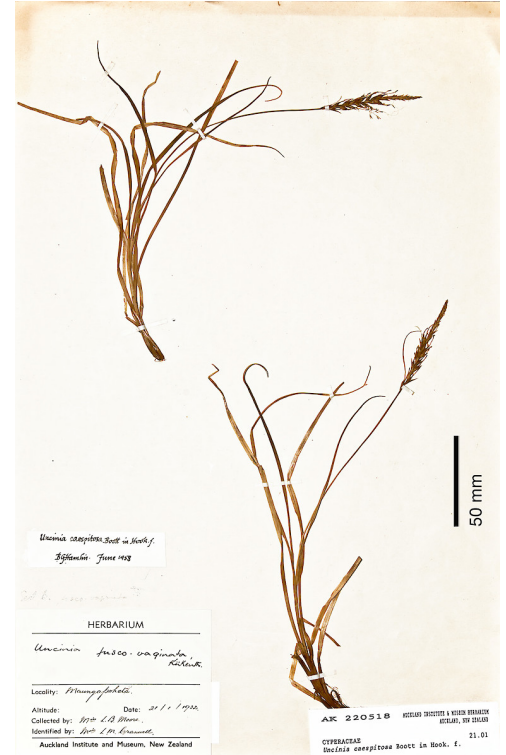
## DETAILED TAXONOMY

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex astricta* K.A.Ford



Herbarium specimen: AK 220518.  
Photographed with permission of Auckland Institute and Museum. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 30/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Herbarium specimen: AK 220518.  
Photographed with permission of Auckland

## SYNONYMS

*Uncinia caespitosa* Boott, *Uncinia caespitosa* Boott var. *collina* Petrie

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ECOLOGY

## FLOWERING

October–November

## FRUITING

November–April

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants, though these may take a while to settle. Prefers moist soil in a semi-shaded site. However, once established will tolerate a wide range of conditions except waterlogging.

## OTHER INFORMATION

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## NVS CODE

CARASR

## 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

## 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

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970). Fact sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange 17 August 2006. 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.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

**MORE INFORMATION**

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

**PDF DATE**

11 March 2025