

Carex corynoidea

COMMON NAMES

bastard grass, fish hooks

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Robust, dark green to yellow-green plants. **Leaves** 5–9 per culm, usually > culms, 4–6–(8) mm wide, strongly scabrid on the margins and on the adaxial surface towards tip. **Spikes** 50–140 mm long, usually bracteate, clavate, 7–10–(15) mm diameter at the top below the male spike, female flowers numerous, usually c. 65–100, very closely crowded throughout almost the whole spike, internodes 0.5–4.0 mm long but up to 8 mm long at base of spike. **Glumes** ≥ or rarely < utricles, deciduous, narrow-lanceolate, acute or acuminate, coriaceous or subcoriaceous, yellowish brown to dark brown, midrib green. **Utricles** 5.0–7.0 × 1.5–2.0 mm, plano-convex to subtrigonal, ovate, yellow-brown to dark brown when ripe, one to two lateral nerves prominent and lighter coloured, stipe 1.5–2.0 mm long, beak 1.5–2.0 mm long; spreading widely when ripe.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most closely allied to *Carex megalepis* K.A.Ford and *C. uncinata* L.f. From *Carex megalepis* it differs by the yellow or dark brown rather than golden yellow or rust-coloured glumes which are equal to or only slightly greater in length (rather than twice as long) than the utricles, and by the widely rather than scarcely spreading utricles. *Carex uncinata* differs by the usually narrower spikes, early deciduous rather than longer lasting deciduous glumes, which are usually much shorter than the utricles

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands, from about the Hunua Ranges south.

HABITAT

A species of montane forest, scrub and on river flats.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex corynoidea K.A.Ford

SYNONYMS

Uncinia clavata (Kük.) Hamlin; *Uncinia australis* Pers. var. *clavata* Kük.; *Uncinia uncinata* (Linn.f.) Kük. var. *clavata* (Kük.) Kük.



Herbarium specimen: AK 289483.
Photographed with permission of Auckland Institute and Museum. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 30/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

November–April

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

CARCON

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 Not Threatened [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.

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Data Deficient [Help](#)

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) 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

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](https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-corynoidea/) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/) licence.

MORE INFORMATION

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

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07 September 2025