

# Carex edura

## COMMON NAMES

bastard grass, hook sedge

## SYNONYMS

*Uncinia divaricata* Boott; *Uncinia compacta* R.Br. var. *divaricata* (Boott) Hook.f.; *Uncinia clarkii* Petrie; *Uncinia compacta* R.Br. var. *petriei* C.B. Clarke; *Uncinia compacta* R.Br. var. *clarkei* (Petrie) Kük.; *Uncinia divaricata* Boott var. *petriei* (C.B. Clarke) Hamlin

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex edura* K.A.Ford

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

UNCDIV

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 88

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand, North Island (from the Raukumara Range south), South Island and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

## HABITAT

Montane to alpine. A species of open forest, scrub, tussock grassland, herbfield, mires, bogs and river beds. Also common on ultramafic soils.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Laxly tufted or shortly rhizomatous dark yellowish green or orange-green plants. **Rhizome** 1–2 mm. diameter. **Culms** 10–400 × 0.5–2.0 mm, erect or ascending, rigid, cartilaginous, subtrigonus, glabrous; basal bracts dull yellow-brown or darker brown. **Leaves** 4–12 per culm, usually < mature culms but occasionally ≥ culms, 1.5–4.0 mm wide, rather soft to coriaceous, dark yellowish green, scabrid on margins. **Spikes** 10–45 × 4–10 mm, female flowers numerous, densely crowded, internodes almost all equal, 0.5–1.0 mm long. **Glumes** occasionally > utricles in lower part of spike, ≤ utricles above, deciduous, subulate or ovate, obtuse to subacute, membranous, hyaline, or light to dark brown and opaque, midrib green with the 3 nerves not very conspicuous, midrib of 1–3 lowest glumes often scabrid and occasionally prolonged in lowermost glume to a scabrid awn. **Utricles** 3.5–5.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm, trigonus or subtrigonus with conspicuous lateral nerves, greenish brown to dark brown, widely spreading when ripe, contracted below to a broad stipe c. 1 mm long, beak 1.0–1.5 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Carex edura* is a widespread and variable species. Of the New Zealand species, it is most likely to be confused with *C. drucei* (Hamlin) K.A.Ford, *C. horizontalis* (Colenso) K.A.Ford and possibly *C. crispa* K.A.Ford. From *Carex edura*, *C. drucei* differs by the widely spreading, stoloniferous rather than tufted or shortly rhizomatous growth habit; usually more numerous, much narrower, grass-like, soft rather than harshly scabrid leaves, and by the shorter, oblong rather than broadly pyramidal spikes, with smaller dark-brown rather than green-brown to dark brown glossy utricles. *Carex horizontalis* differs by the dark yellowish green to reddish green rather than bright green leaves and culms. It also differs by its fewer flowered spikelets and green to grey-brown, dull rather than green-brown to dark brown glossy utricles. *Carex crispa* is easily distinguished by its much narrower, stiffly erect grass-like involute leaves with twisted/curled (cirrhose) leaf rather than straight apices.

## FLOWERING

October–November

## FRUITING

November–May

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Very easy from divisions of whole plants and from seed. Does best when planted in full sun in a fertile, free draining but moist soil. Excellent in pots.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

*Carex edura* is extremely variable and would repay further critical taxonomic study.

## 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.

## 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

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

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