

Carex edura

COMMON NAME

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.

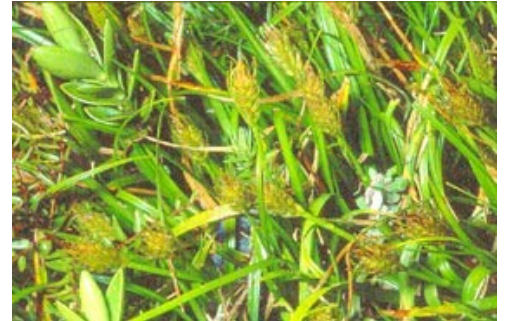
HABITAT

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).



Birch Hill stream, Mt Cook. February.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 20/02/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

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.

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/>