

Carex silvestris

COMMON NAME

forest bastard grass, hook sedge

SYNONYMS

Uncinia silvestris Hamlin

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

(Hamlin) K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

UNCSIL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 88$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Carex silvestris (Hamlin) K.A.Ford

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Pureora and the Kaimai Range south), South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura.

HABITAT

Lowland to upper montane forest. Often rather local and probably Naturally Uncommon/Sparse.



Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 17/01/2008, Licence: CC BY.



Leaf bases. Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 17/01/2008, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Bright green, densely caespitose plants. **Culms** 200–400 × c. 0.5 mm, glabrous; basal bracts light cinnamon-brown or yellow-brown, not shining. **Leaves** 4–5 per culm, ± = or slightly > culms, 0.5–2.0 mm wide, bright green, tapering to a long filiform tip, scabrid on margins and on upper surface towards leaf-tip. **Spikes** 35–100 × 2–3 mm, often bracteate with the leaf-like bract much > spike, female flowers c. 10–20, internodes 3–5 mm long towards base of spike, 1–2 mm long above. **Glumes** much < utricles, persistent, ovate, acute or subacute, membranous, very faintly nerved, midrib pale green. **Utricles** 3.5–5.0 mm long, slightly < 1 mm diameter, plano-convex, concavo-convex or subtrigonal, oblong or ovoid-lanceolate, light green, rarely greenish brown, membranous, few-nerved or smooth, stipe c. 1 mm long, narrowed above to a distinct beak 1.0–1.5 mm long

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from all other species with persistent glumes by the glabrous culms and glumes which are conspicuously shorter than the utricles(see also *Carex egmontiana* (Hamlin) K.A.Ford).

FLOWERING

October–November

FRUITING

November–February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants. Prefers a permanently moist, peaty soil but will grow in most substrates. Best in semi-shade.

ETYMOLOGY

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

silvestris: Of forests

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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