

Carex dallii

COMMON NAMES

Dall's sedge

SYNONYMS

Carex gibbsii Petrie

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex dallii Kirk

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

CARDAL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = c.42$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand; South Island (North West Nelson, Westland and Otago)

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine in damp depressions, swamps and mires in forest and scrub.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).



Herbarium specimen: AK 105020.

Photographed with permission of Auckland Institute and Museum. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 23/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Herbarium specimen: AK 105020.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shortly rhizomatous; slender, dull red sedge with ± distant tufts. **Rhizome** c. 1 mm diameter, closely covered by dark red striated bracts. **Culms** elongating when mature to c. 500 × c. 0.5 mm, glabrous, flattened or subterete; basal sheaths light brown or reddish, nerves ± distinct. **Leaves** c. ¾ length of culms, 1–2 mm wide, channelled, narrow-linear, margins scarcely scabrid at base with well-spaced teeth towards the tip. **Spikes** 3–4–(5), the uppermost ± approximate, sessile, the 1–(2) lowest often much more distant and on a long filiform peduncle; terminal spike male; remaining spikes female, 5–15 × 2–5 mm, rarely with a few male flowers at the base; subtending bracts leaf-like, > inflorescence. **Glumes** ± = or slightly < utricles, ovate, red-brown, midrib usually paler brown, but occasionally darker brown, margins scarious, tips usually emarginate with a short but rather broad scabrid awn. **Utricles** 2.0–3.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm, subtrigonus, narrow-ovoid, or almost oblong, light brown below, dark red-brown above, surface smooth or faintly nerved, margins smooth, slightly narrowed towards a beak < 0.5 mm long with a shallow bidentate scabrid orifice, somewhat contracted at the base to an extremely short stipe. **Stigmas** 3. **Nut** c. 2 mm long, trigonous, oblong-obovoid, light brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Carex dallii is most similar to *C. traversii* Kirk, which also has reddish coloured leaves. However, *C. traversii* is an ultramafic endemic confined to the eastern Nelson mineral belt. From that species *C. dallii* is distinguished by its absence from ultramafic rocks, larger size, and by its channelled rather than plano-convex leaves.

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

December–April

LIFE CYCLE

Nuts surrounded by inflated utricles are dispersed by granivory and wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of established plants. Does best in full sun, in a permanently damp soil. The dark reddish leaves are rather attractive. An excellent pot plant.

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (10 August 2006). Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970) 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.
Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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