

Carex secta

COMMON NAMES

purei, pukio

SYNONYMS

Carex virgata var. *secta* (Boott) Hook.f., *C. paniculata* var. *secta* (Boott) Cheeseman, *C. appressa* var. *secta* (Boott) Kük.

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex secta Boott

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

CARSEC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = c.70$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Found throughout the North, South and Stewart Islands. Also on the main Chatham Island, though scarce.

HABITAT

Widespread in suitable wetlands from coastal to montane wetlands.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tussock forming sedge up to 1.5 × 0.8 m, mature specimens with trunk-like bases comprised of matted rhizomes, roots and old culm-bases. **Culms** 0.25–1–(1.5) m, drooping, trigonous, scabrid, basal sheaths brown to light-brown. **Leaves** 1.5–7 mm wide, light green to yellow-green (rarely dark green—then in heavy shade), equal to or longer than culms, drooping, channelled, margins and keel scabrid. **Inflorescence** a loosely branched, somewhat slender, drooping panicle 0.45–1 m long. **Spikes** pale brown, mostly clustered towards the ends of the slender branchlets. **Utricles** chestnut brown to dark brown, margins weakly winged, scabrid, light brown to brown, apex with a minute to distinct beak.



Coromandel, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Utricles. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 05/02/2008, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

C. appressa, *C. sectoides*, *C. tenuiculmis* and *C. virgata*. From *C. appressa* and *C. virgata*, it can be distinguished by its branched, drooping, paniculate inflorescence. From *C. sectoides*, by its smaller stature, and slender, longer, drooping inflorescence branchlets. *C. sectoides* is sympatric with *C. secta* at only one site on main Chatham Island. From *C. tenuiculmis*, it differs by its light green to yellow-green, rather than wine-red foliage, and larger panicles with more numerous branchlets.

FLOWERING

(September)–October–November–(December)

FRUITING

October–March

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. Although a wetland species *C. secta* will grow well in most soils and moisture regimes. Does best in full sun.

ETYMOLOGY

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

secta: Much divided (panicle)

CULTIVATION

Commonly cultivated. Sold by most garden centres.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (10 August 2006). Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

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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-secta/>

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17 September 2024