

Carex solandri

COMMON NAMES

forest sedge, Solander's sedge

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dense yellow-green tufts, upper part of leaves and culms drooping.

Culms 0.10–1 m long, c. 1 mm diameter, trigonous, smooth; basal sheaths red-brown, red-purple to black. **Leaves** < or = culms, 1.5–6.5 mm wide, linear, double-folded, cartilaginous. **Inflorescence** of 5–10 distant spikes 10–50 mm long, nodding on long filiform peduncles; terminal 1–4 spikes male, slender, usually approximate; remaining spikes female with a few male flowers above or below, 3–4 mm diameter, usually almost black, lowermost spikes often compound; subtending bracts leafy, > inflorescence. **Glumes** (excluding awn) ± = or < utricles, ovate, lanceolate, entire or rarely emarginate, light or dark brown, membranous, midrib produced to a scabrid awn of varying length. **Utricles** 2–3 mm long, slightly > 1 mm diameter, plano-convex, unequally biconvex or subtrigonus, fusiform or ovoid, turgid, dark red-brown to almost black, occasionally light brown, pale yellow towards the base, surface smooth, occasionally faintly nerved at the base, shining; scarcely narrowed above to a bidentate beak < 0.5 mm. long, margins smooth or occasionally scabrid, orifice us. scabrid; rarely contracted to a stipe c. 0.2 mm. long. **Stigmas** 3. **Nut** c. 1 mm. long, trigonous, obovoid, cream, surface minutely but deeply pitted giving angles of nut a serrate appearance.

SIMILAR TAXA

Carex solandri is most often confused with *C. dissita* Boott, especially as both species often grow together. *Carex dissita* differs from *C. solandri* by the distant, dark brown, rather short and stout, usually shortly pedunculate female spikes. Further, the utricles are also distinctly bicoloured basally cream to yellow brown and red-purple to black above. *C. solandri* has long filiform peduncles and uniformly dark coloured utricles (rarely light brown and pale yellow near the base).

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Usually in riparian forest where it may be the dominant sedge of alluvial terraces, and riversides but also colonising wet seepages and slip scars. Usually found in association with *C. dissita* Boott.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

DETAILED TAXONOMY



Dome Walkway. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 15/07/2006, Licence: CC BY.



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FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex solandri Boott

SYNONYMS

Carex dissita Boott var. solandri (Boott) Kük.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

August–December

FRUITING

October–May

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants. A popular species in cultivation, and often sold incorrectly as *C. dissita*. Prefers a permanently damp, semi-shaded site but once established can tolerate full sun and dry spells.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

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

OTHER INFORMATION

ETYMOLOGY

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

solandri: Named after Daniel Carlsson Solander (19 February 1733 - 13 May 1782) who was a Swedish naturalist and an apostle of Carl Linnaeus.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to indigenous and naturalised Carex in New Zealand](#)

NVS CODE

CARSOL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2024 | Regionally Not Threatened Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Regional conservation status of indigenous vascular plants in Otago](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2024) report.

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

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.

ATTRIBUTION

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

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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