Carex goyenii

COMMON NAMES
Goyen's sedge

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Sedges

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Stiffly erect to spreading, tufted yellow-green sedge, 0.25–1.00 m tall. **Culms** 100–450 × 1–2 mm, trigonous, slightly scabrid; basal sheaths dark brown. **Leaves** much > culms, 3.5–6.0 mm wide, double-folded, coriaceous, margins scabrid. **Spikes** 4–8, the uppermost approximate, the lower 2–3 often more distant; 1–(2) terminal spikes occasionally male, but more often partly or almost wholly female; remaining female spikes 15–40 × 4–7 mm, cylindrical, sessile or shortly pedunculate. **Glumes** c. ≣ length of utricles, ovate, often emarginate, brown, membranous, with a pale brown midrib produced to a short scabrid awn. **Utricles** 3.0–4.0 × c. 1.5 mm, plano-convex to unequally biconvex, ellipsoid or obovoid, faintly nerved to distinctly ridged, pale greenish brown spotted with fine red-brown striae, slightly narrowed to a < 1 mm long with scabrid margins and orifice. **Stigmas** 2. **Nuts** slightly < 2 mm long, plano-convex, oblong or obovoid, dark brown.

SIMILAR TAXA
The usually stiffly erect to stiffly spreading yellow-green leafy tufts, double-folded leaves, equidistant, short, stout, barrel-shaped spikes, and pale brown, membranous glumes are especially diagnostic of this usually montane to subalpine species. *Carex goyenii* has no obvious close relatives.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: South Island throughout but scarce in Westland and absent from Southland.

HABITAT
Montane to alpine. In dense beech forest, on alluvial terraces in forest and scrub or in damp places in tussock grassland.

GENUS
Carex

FAMILY
Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY
Carex goyenii Petrie

SYNONYMS
None

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
October–December

FRUITING
November–June

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 the division of established plants. Excellent for a permanently damp situation in a shaded site but will tolerate full sun and dry conditions once established. The yellow-green foliage is especially attractive.

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

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY
Key to indigenous and naturalised Carex in New Zealand

NVS CODE
CARGOY

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally Data Deficient | Qualifiers: TL 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 "Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

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-goyenii/

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