

Carex fascicularis

COMMON NAME

sedge

SYNONYMS

Carex forsteri Wahl. var. *fascicularis* (Boott) Hook.f.; *Carex pseudocyperus* L. var. *Fascicularis* (Boott) Boott

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex fascicularis Boott

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

CARFAS

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, SO, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (abundant in the north abundant to about the Waikato then scarce to about Mokau), South Island (known only from Rarangi). Also Australia, New Guinea and Indonesia.

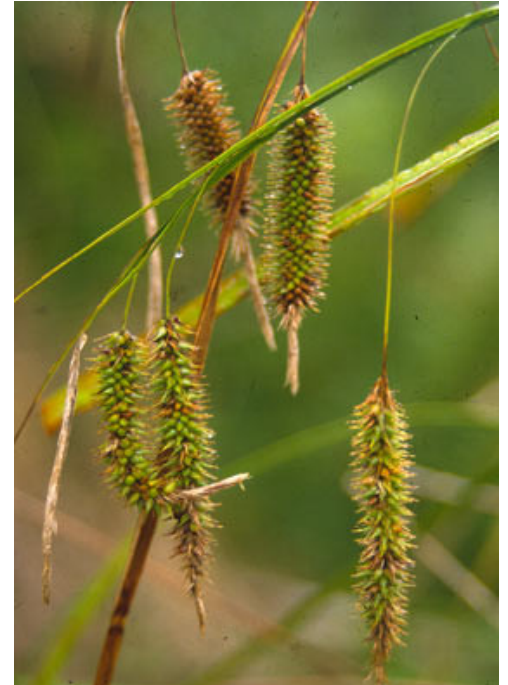
HABITAT

Coastal to lowland in freshwater wetlands, under willow in gully systems, along river and stream banks, lake margins, and in damp seepages, pond margins and clearings within forest. Preferring fertile to mid-fertile wetlands.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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



Hunahuna stream, Ahipara. Jan 1990.
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Hunahuna stream, Ahipara. Jan 1990.
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout, tufted, somewhat soft, pale green to yellow-green sedge. **Culms** 0.6–1.1 m tall, 1.5–2.5 mm wide, triquetrous, very finely scabrid; basal sheaths grey. **Leaves** rather > culms, 4–13 mm wide, double-folded, with prominent cross-veinlets on lamina and sheath. **Spikes** 4–6; uppermost 1–(2) spikes male; remaining spikes female, 20–70 × 8–11 mm, usually slightly < male spikes, ± distant, pedunculate, pendulous. **Glumes** (excluding awn) c. ½ length of utricle, lanceolate, light brown, margins of upper half fimbriate or lacerate, midrib produced to a scabrid awn ± = glume in length. **Utricles** 4.0–6.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm, subtrigonous or inflated and biconvex, ovoid, distinctly nerved, light green, strongly reflexed; beak 1.5–2.0 mm long, entirely glabrous; stipe c. 1 mm long, abruptly narrowed. **Stigmas** 3. **Nut** 1.5–2.0 mm long, trigonous with thickened angles, obovoid, pale yellow-brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Carex fascicularis is easily recognised by its stout culms; pale green to yellow green wide leaves; prominent cross-veinlets on sheaths and leaves; initially pendent spikelets, very short glumes with lacerate or fimbriate margins; and by the submembranous, strongly nerved, glabrous, spreading utricles. There are only two other carices in New Zealand with cross-veinlets, the indigenous *C. maorica* Hamlin and naturalised *C. lurida* Wahlenberg. *Carex maorica* differs from *C. fascicularis* by the female spikes mostly sessile rather than pendent, and normally clustered at one level near the base of the male spike rather than mostly distant to ± approximate (but then never clustered at one level round base of male spike). *Carex lurida* is a much larger sedge than either species (up to 2.5 m tall) and has utricles 6–9 × 2–4 rather than 4.0–6.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm.

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

November–May

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. fascicularis* 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.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (110 August 2006). 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.

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. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Carex fascicularis* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-fascicularis/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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