

Carex carsei

COMMON NAME

Carse's sedge

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex carsei Petrie

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

CRXCAR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Data Deficient

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. In the North Island known from near Lake Taupo, and wetlands around Tongariro National Park. In the South Island throughout in suitable habitats, though scarce in Canterbury, Otago and Fiordland.

HABITAT

A subalpine to alpine sedge of boggy ground, mires, and wet forest clearings.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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



near Murchison. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 13/01/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Carex carsei. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizomatous sedge, forming dense, grassy swards in swampy places. **Rhizomes** 1 mm diameter, light brown or grey. **Culms** 2.5–8.5–(25) cm × 0.5–1 mm, 3-angled (trigonous) or compressed below, stiff, erect, hairless, enclosed for much of length by grey or cream leaf-sheaths. **Leaves** much > culms, 1–2.5 mm wide, channelled, grass-like, yellow-green, linear, narrowed to a subobtuse tip, margins finely scabrid (toothed). **Inflorescence** of 3–5 spikes, clustered together in a compact head, terminal spike male, small, unstalked, remaining spikes female, stalked, overtopping male 1–1.5 cm long. **Glumes** much < than utricles, broadly ovate, acute, membranous, faintly multi-nerved, pale yellow-brown with a green midrib. **Utricles** 7–8.5 × 2 mm, plano(flat)-convex to subtrigonous, narrowly lanceolate, multi-nerved, light green to greenish-brown, hairless, tapering to a 3–3.5 mm long beak. **Beak** bifid, with a finely scabrid orifice. **Stigmas** 3. **Nut** 2 mm long, obtusely 3-angled, obovoid, glossy, light yellow-green.

SIMILAR TAXA

Carex carsei is a very distinctive species unlikely to be confused with any other indigenous or naturalised sedge.

FLOWERING

No information available

FRUITING

No information available

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown by division and from fresh seed.

THREATS

Carex carsei has very few recent (>1980) collections.

ETYMOLOGY

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

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (10 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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Carex carsei* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated).

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-carsei/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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