

# Carex ochrosaccus

## COMMON NAME

forest sedge

## SYNONYMS

*Carex dissita* Boott var *ochrosaccus* C.B.Clarke ex Cheeseman

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex ochrosaccus* (Cheeseman) Hamlin

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

CAROCH

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, mostly from Whangarei and Dargaville South to the Bay of Plenty and Mokau River. South of there is a sparsely distributed species, ranging about as far south as the Manawatu Gorge.

## HABITAT

Coastal to lowland usually in damp situations within alluvial forest but also along stream banks and within coastal seepages. Sometimes forming extensive sedgelands within willow carr.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

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



Gordon Park, Wanganui. Feb 2007.  
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Gordon Park, Wanganui. Feb 2007.  
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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Densely tufted and robust sedge, 0.45–1 m tall. **Culms** 1.0–1.5 mm diameter, trigonous, smooth; basal sheaths red-brown, yellow-brown or grey-brown. **Leaves** > culms, 3–4 mm wide, double-folded, light green, glossy, margins slightly scabrid. **Spikes** 5–7; terminal 1–(2) spikes male, occasionally mixed with female flowers; remaining spikes female, 15–60 × 5–7 mm, shortly pedunculate, erect, distant, the lower often compound. **Glumes** (excluding awn) < utricles, ovate, acute or emarginate, pale cream flecked with small brown striae, membranous, midrib green, produced to a very fine scabrid awn c. ½ length of glume. **Utricles** 2.5–3.0 × c. 1 mm, ellipsoid, turgid, light yellow-brown, occasionally darker brown, especially towards the top, distinctly nerved, margins near the top finely scabrid, gradually tapering to the narrow bifid beak, c. 0.5 mm. long, orifice scabrid. **Stigmas** 3. **Nut** c. 1.5 mm. long, trigonous, light brown.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Carex ochrosaccus* is rather similar to *C. dissita* and *C. lambertiana* species from which it is easily distinguished by the light cream glumes and distinctly nerved utricles.

## FLOWERING

October–January

## FRUITING

Throughout the year.

## 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. Excellent for a permanently damp situation in a shaded site but will tolerate full sun and dry conditions once established.

## 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

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## MORE INFORMATION

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