

Cyperus sanguinolentus

COMMON NAME

Louisiana flatsedge

SYNONYMS

Pycneus sanguinolentus (Vahl) Nees

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Cyperus sanguinolentus Vahl

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Tufted yellow-green leafy sedge, with triangular stems up to 40 cm tall, with 1 or occasionally 2 or 3 distinctively green and purple red striped flowerheads, each made up of flattened flower spikes, with two to three grass-like leaves immediately under this, at the end of flower stalk.

DISTRIBUTION

Restricted to Northland and Auckland.

HABITAT

Wet pasture, margins of water bodies and drains.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted annual. **Stems** to 40 cm tall, very slender in small plants but more rigid in larger ones, 3-angled, very leafy at base. **Leaves** < stems, to 2.5 mm wide, margins smooth except near tip. **Involucral bracts** 2–3, very widely spreading, unequal, at least the lowest >, to very much > inflorescence. **Inflorescence** a single head or small umbel with few very short rays. **Spikelets** in ovoid dark clusters, oblong or oblong-lanceolate, 4–8 × 2 mm, much compressed. **Glumes** not closely imbricate, ± 2 mm long, ovate, obtuse, with broad green keel and dark red-purple patch at tip and purple band inside the green margin. **Stamens** 3 or 2. **Style-branches** 2. **Nut** ± ½ length of glume, orbicular-obovoid, biconvex, black.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to the native *Schoenus apogon*, but the dark purple lined green flattened spikelets and triangular stems distinguish *P. sanguinolentus* from this species.

FLOWERING

Summer to autumn

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Purple

FRUITING

Summer to autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Seed dispersed by contaminated machinery.



YEAR NATURALISED

1944

ORIGIN

North Africa, Asia and Australia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, possibly ornamental plant, seed or soil contaminant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

ETYMOLOGY

cyperus: From the ancient Greek name for sedge, kypeiros

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Healy and Edgar (1980).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion P. et al. 2020. Freshwater Invasive Species of New Zealand 2020. NIWA publication.

<https://docs.niwa.co.nz/library/public/FreInSpec.pdf>

Healy AJ, Edgar E. 1980. Flora of New Zealand, Volume III. Adventive Cyperaceous, Petalous and Spathaceous Monocotyledons. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 220 p.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA. 1989. Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington, NZ. 319 p.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cyperus-sanguinolentus/>