

Carex crispa

COMMON NAME

bastard grass, hook sedge

SYNONYMS

Uncinia involuta Hamlin

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex crispa K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

UNCINV

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 88

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North (Mt Egmont and Ruahine Range), South (North-West Nelson, Mt Arthur, Nelson, Otago and Fiordland) and Stewart Islands.

HABITAT

Upper montane, subalpine to alpine. In grassland or scrub, very rarely in open forest.



Carex crispa. Photographer: Sandra Wotherspoon, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Herbarium specimen: AK 51063. Photographed with permission of Auckland Institute and Museum. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 30/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, bright-green to yellow-green plants. **Culms** 100–300 × c. 0.5 mm, subtrigonous or terete, glabrous; basal bracts dull brown. **Leaves** 4–7 per culm, < culms, c. 1 mm wide, ± stiff, involute, or flatter and up to 1.5 mm wide, bright green, usually curled at the tips, faintly scabrid on margins and adaxial surface towards leaf-tip. **Spikes** 30–55 × 2–5 mm, occasionally bracteate, female flowers 6–20, rather close-set, internodes 1–3 mm long. **Glumes** much > utricles at base of spike, = utricles above, deciduous, ovate, acute or acuminate, membranous, light brown with a green to brown midrib. **Utricles** 4.0–5.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm, trigonous, ovate, widely spreading when ripe, green to light brown, shining, the lateral nerve always prominent, otherwise smooth or faintly nerved, contracted below to a conspicuous stipe slightly > 1.0 mm long, slightly tapered above to a beak c. 1 mm long

SIMILAR TAXA

Carex crispa is easily recognised by the leaves which have twisted/curled apices (cirrhose) and are involute (incurved) and by the glossy utricles. It is perhaps most similar to *Carex astricta* K.A.Ford which has flat or v-shaped, non cirrhose leaf apices, and dull utricles.

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

November–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Very easy from divisions of whole plants and from seed. Does best when planted in full sun in a fertile, free draining but moist soil. Excellent in pots.

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970). Fact sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange 17 August 2006.

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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