

# Carex cyanea

## COMMON NAME

hook sedge

## SYNONYMS

Uncinia leptostachya Raoul

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

Carex cyanea K.A.Ford

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

UNCLEP

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 88

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (southern third only), South Island (mostly eastern, as far south as Dunedin, very scarce in the west).

## HABITAT

Mostly coastal, in open forest and scrub, rarely bordering wetlands and saltmarsh.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rather stout, wiry, densely tufted, glaucous to dark green plants. **Culms** 300–700 mm long, < 1 mm diameter, initially distinctly scabrid above, becoming faintly so when mature; lower basal sheaths dark brown, uppermost sheath bright pink above. **Leaves** 1–3 per culm, < culms, usually c. 1 mm wide and involute, rarely up to 2 mm wide and flat, scabrid on the margins and upper surface. **Spikes** 40–150 × 2–3 mm, female flowers c. 10–20–(26), distant, internodes up to 15 mm long at base of spike, decreasing to 4 mm long above. **Glumes** < utricles, persistent, ± obtuse, subcoriaceous, or membranous, midrib conspicuous, green, remainder hyaline, colourless or red-tinged. **Utricles** 5–7 × c. 1 mm, plano-convex, oblong, nerved on the dorsal side, scarcely stipitate, very slightly narrowed to a scabrid beak slightly < 2 mm long.



Makara, Wellington. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 23/04/2014, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation ex Makara, Wellington. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.

## SIMILAR TAXA

The scabrid utricles and lax-flowered inflorescences are also typical of *Carex healyi* K.A.Ford and *C. subviridis* K.A.Ford, two species which are usually found well inland in densely forested habitats. From these *Carex cyanea* differs by the narrow, inrolled usually glaucous leaves. The uppermost leaf-sheath of *Carex cyanea* is pinkish coloured like *C. erythrovaginata* K.A.Ford. However that species differs by the glabrous utricles and wider, usually flat leaves. *Carex cyanea* could also be confused with *C. strictissima* (Kük.) K.A.Ford which has red-coloured sheaths, however, that species has a very distinctive rush like growth habit.

## FLOWERING

October–November–(December)

## FRUITING

November–July

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants. Prefers a permanently moist, peaty soil but will grow in most substrates. Best in semi-shade.

## 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 cyanea* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-cyanea/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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