

# Carex druceana

## COMMON NAME

Druce's sedge

## SYNONYMS

*C. druceana* Hamlin var. *druceana*

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex druceana* Hamlin

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

CARDRU

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: St

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: St

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Data Deficient

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Ruahine Ranges. South Island, north west Nelson.

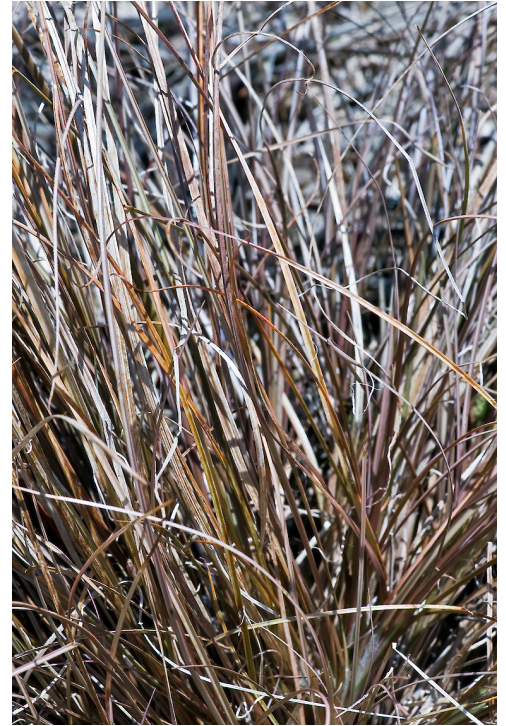
## HABITAT

Sub alpine to alpine sedge of damp ground in tussock grassland.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Light reddish green tufted sedge 10–0 cm tall. **Culms** smooth, circular in cross-section (terete), 0.5–1 mm diameter. **Basal sheaths** grey-brown or light brown. **Leaves** > culms, up to 35 cm long, (1)–1.5–(2.2) mm wide, flat, concave or convex, red, margins scabrid (with teeth), tip curled.

**Inflorescence** of 4–6 unstalked, closely-packed, 0.5–1–(1.5) cm × 3–5 mm, ovate or cylindrical spikes; male spikes at the base, female at the top. **Glumes** ≤ utricles (fruits), broadly ovate or oblong, pale brown with red markings, apex cleft, with the green midrib extending as a scabrid 2 mm long awn. **Utricles** c. 2.5 × 1.3–1.5 mm, ovoid to rhomboid, 3-angled (trigonus) or irregularly inflated, yellowish with red near tip, beak minute (0.3 mm), black or dark brown. **Stigmas** 3. **Nut** c. 1 × 1 mm, elliptic-obovoid, 3-angled, cream to dark brown.



In cultivation ex Ruahine Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation ex Ruahine Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Carex astonii* (which is treated as a variety of *C. druceana* in Moore & Edgar (1970)) from which it is distinguished by its wider leaves ((1)–1.5–(2.2) mm vs. 0.7–1.2 mm in *C. astonii*), clustered rather than distant spikelets, and by its longer awns (up to 2 mm, those of *C. astonii* up to 0.5 mm). *Carex astonii* is confined to the Kaimanawa and Ruahine Ranges, while *C. druceana* extends to north west Nelson.

## FLOWERING

No information available

## FRUITING

No information available

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown by division and from fresh seed.

## THREATS

*Carex druceana* is probably not threatened but there are very few recent (>1980) collections.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**druceana**: After A.P. Druce, one of New Zealand's most respected field botanists

## 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.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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