

Carex hamlinii

COMMON NAME

Hamlin's hook grass, Hamlin's bastard grass

SYNONYMS

Uncinia astonii Hamlin

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex hamlinii K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

UNCAST

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 Island(Southern Ruahine and Tararua Ranges), South Island (Nelson, Westland, Otago, Fiordland).

HABITAT

Usually associated with the understorey of beech (*Nothofagus*) forest, growing at elevations of 300–1200 m a.s.l.



Herbarium specimen: AK 289104.
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dark green, densely caespitose plants. **Culms** 0.2–0.6 m long, < 0.5 mm diameter, glabrous; basal bracts light brown. **Leaves** 3–6 per culm, = or < culms, 1–2 mm wide, light yellow-green or rarely red, occasionally involute, rather wiry, margins finely scabrid. **Spikes** 40–100 × 3–5 mm, occasionally bracteate, female flowers c. 10–20, distant in lower third of spike with internodes to 9 mm long, more crowded above with internodes 2–5 mm long. **Glumes** usually = but occasionally < or > utricles, deciduous, lanceolate, acute, hyaline, light brown throughout. **Utricles** 5.5–7.0 × c. 1 mm, plano-convex or subtrigonal, elliptic-lanceolate, grey-green, membranous, nerved, erect or spreading when ripe, distinctly contracted below to a stipe slightly < 1.5 mm long, gradually tapered above to a beak 1.5–2.0 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

This fine-leaved species has a superficial resemblance to *Carex subviridis* K.A.Ford which also has a gracile habit, and rather fine light-green leaves and lax inflorescences. From that species it is easily distinguished by its glabrous rather than scabrid utricles.

FLOWERING

November–December

FRUITING

December–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of established plants (though these may then take a while to settle). Prefers a shaded site, and should be planted within a deep, rich, free draining but permanently moist soil

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

MORE INFORMATION

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