

# Carex healyi

## COMMON NAME

harsh-leaved bastard grass, hook sedge

## SYNONYMS

*Uncinia leptostachya* Raoul var. *scabra* (Boott) Hook.f.; *Uncinia disticha* Col.; *Uncinia scabra* Boott

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex healyi* K.A.Ford

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

UNCSCA

## 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 from Great Barrier Island and the Kaipara south (most common in the east). South Island (Nelson and thence east of the main divide to about Dunedin).

## HABITAT

Coastal to subalpine. Usually in dense lowland to montane forest. However, also locally common in dune forest and scrub in the northern part of its range.



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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rather harsh-textured, rigidly erect, densely tufted, yellow-green, olive-green or dull bluish green plants. **Culms** 250–900 mm tall, usually < 1 mm diameter, erect, strongly scabrid towards the top; basal sheaths dark brown. **Leaves** 3–6 per culm, > or = culm, 2–3 mm wide, narrow-linear, moderately scabrid on margins and on upper surface along midvein, tips subacute in shorter leaves, more tapering and filiform in longer leaves. **Spikes** 30–100 long, bracteate, lowermost glume often broad and leaf-like, much > spike, or the midrib greatly extended forming a long filiform awn, female flowers c. 10, lax, internodes to 8 mm long at base of spike, 2–4 mm long above. **Glumes** < or = utricles, persistent, obtuse or lowermost subacute, membranous, very light brown, the midrib of lower glumes often scabrid. **Utricles** 4.5–6.0 × c. 1 mm, plano-convex or subtrigonal, grey-brown, scabrid on both surfaces towards the apex, narrowed above to a beak 1 mm long and scarcely narrowed below to a greenish stipe 1.0–1.5 mm long.

## FLOWERING

October–November

## FRUITING

November–March–(June)

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants. Can be grown in a wide variety of soils from free-draining to permanently moist - but resents water logging. 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

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (31 September 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

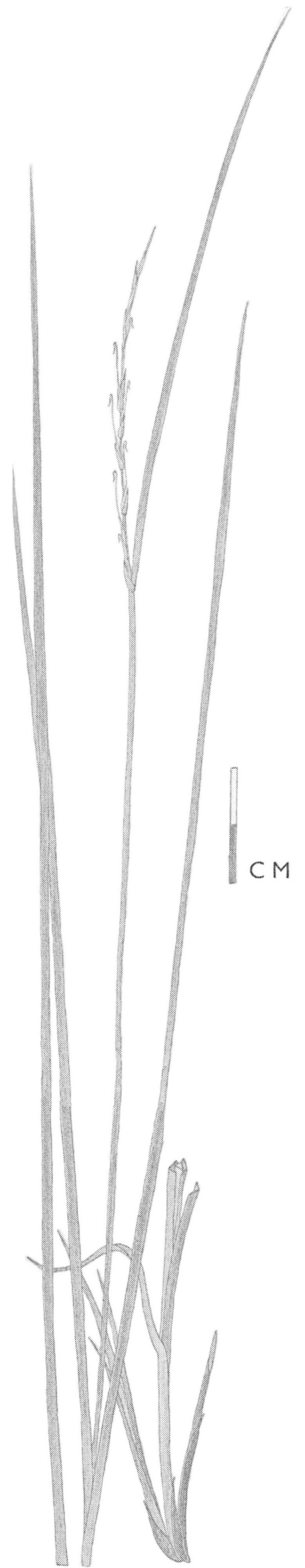
Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Carex healyi* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-healyi/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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







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