

# Carex horizontalis

## COMMON NAME

bastard grass, hook sedge

## SYNONYMS

*Uncinia caespitosa* var. *minor* Kük.; *Uncinia horizontalis* Col.; *Uncinia rupestris* Raoul

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex horizontalis* (Colenso) K.A.Ford

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

UNCRUP

## 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, South and Chatham Islands.

## HABITAT

A mainly forest dwelling species. Mostly montane in the North Island (300–1000 m a.s.l.) but becoming more common in lowland areas in the southern South Island. Irrespective of elevation, common throughout forested areas on the Chatham Islands.



Remutaka Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/09/2006, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants loosely tufted or forming a dense turf. **Culms** 100–400 × c. 0.5 mm, drooping or nodding, glabrous, usually slightly scabrid just below inflorescence; basal bracts light brown, not shining. **Leaves** widely spreading, 4–7 per culm, < mature culms, c. 1.5–2.0 mm wide, bright green, soft, channelled, scabrid on margins and upper surface towards apex. **Spikes** 30–60 × 3–5 mm., occasionally bracteate, female flowers 5–33, lax towards base of spike with internodes to 6 mm long, more crowded above with internodes 0.5–1.0 mm long. **Glumes** ± = or us. < utricles, deciduous, ovate, acute or acuminate, hyaline with green midrib or very pale brown. **Utricles** 4.5–6.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm, ovate-lanceolate, trigonous, green to greenish brown, usually smooth except for a prominent lateral nerve but occasionally with a few less distinct nerves, somewhat spreading when ripe, slightly contracted below to a stipe c. 1.0–1.5 mm long, tapering above to a beak of 1–2 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Carex horizontalis* is closely allied to *Carex minor* (Kük.) K.A.Ford (a species many regard as part of *C. horizontalis*). In the field *C. horizontalis* can be distinguished from *Carex minor* by its densely leafy, tufted, rather than loosely tufted growth habit, leaves which are 1.5–2.0 mm rather than < 1 mm wide, and utricles which are 1.0–1.5 mm rather than c. 1 mm diameter. *Carex minor* tends to flower earlier (September– October) than *C. horizontalis* (October–November).

## FLOWERING

October–November

## FRUITING

December–April–(July)

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants - though these may take a while to settle. Prefers a permanently damp, shaded site in a deep rich 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).

## 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.

## MORE INFORMATION

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