

# Carex lectissima

## COMMON NAME

fine-leaved bastard grass, hook sedge

## SYNONYMS

*Uncinia filiformis* Boott; *Uncinia rupestris* Raoul var. *rupestris* Kük.

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex lectissima* K.A.Ford

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

UNCFIL

## 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 Stewart Islands from Te Moehau south.

## HABITAT

Montane to subalpine (coastal in Fiordland). Usually in cloud forest where it grows on moss and liverwort covered ground, on peat and especially around soak holes, semi-permanent pools and on rotting logs.



Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 23/02/2008, Licence: CC BY.



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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender, tufted, bright green plants. **Culms** 30–300 mm long, < 0.5 mm wide, glabrous; basal bracts red-brown with paler striations. **Leaves** 4–7 per culm, < mature culms, us. < 0.5 mm wide, deeply channelled or flat with a distinct groove, bright green, glabrous at the base, scabrid towards the long-tapering, finely acute apex. **Spike** 5–30 × 2–3 mm, female flowers c. 10 mostly distant, internodes 2–3 mm long (up to 4 mm long at base of spike). **Glumes** = or < utricles, deciduous, lanceolate, acute, membranous with green midrib. **Utricles** 3.5–5.0 × c. 1 mm, trigonous, light greenish brown, lateral nerves prominent, somewhat spreading when ripe, stipe and beak c. 1 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Carex lectissima* is distinguished from all other New Zealand *Carex* species with hooked utricles by the light-coloured striations on the red-brown basal sheaths, and from *C. obtusifolia* (Heenan) K.A.Ford by the trigonous upper part of the leaf and by the acute rather than obtuse leaf apex. It could be confused with *Carex minor* (Kük.) K.A.Ford from which it differs by its much narrower, filiform leaves.

## FLOWERING

October–November

## FRUITING

November–March

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants, though these may take a while to settle. Prefers moist soil in a semi-shaded site. This sedge must never be allowed to dry out.

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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