

# Carex longifructus

## COMMON NAME

bastard grass, hook sedge

## SYNONYMS

*Uncinia longifructus* (Kük.) Petrie; *Uncinia tenella* var. *longifructus* Kük.

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex longifructus* (Kük.) K.A.Ford

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

UNCLON

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 88

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Sparse

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. In the North Island known from the Raukumara, Ruahine and Tararua Ranges. In the South Island locally known from Nelson, Marlborough, Westland, Canterbury, North Otago, said to be more common in Fiordland.

## HABITAT

A species of shaded slopes and peaty hollows within montane forest and subalpine scrub. Exact habitat preferences are not known.



Alpha, Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 03/03/2008, Licence: CC BY.



Alpha, Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 03/03/2008, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Somewhat flaccid-leaved, openly caespitose, stoloniferous, rather long-spreading sedge. **Stolons** rather fine, < 0.5 mm diameter. **Culms** 30–200 × 0.5 mm, rather rigid, glabrous, basal bracts very light brown or straw coloured. **Leaves** 3–7 per culm, rather flaccid, equal to or < culms, slightly < 1 mm wide, involute to channelled, involute when dry, midrib distinctly thickened and paler, lamina with margins scabrid near leaf apex. **Spike** 10–15 × 2–4 mm, female flowers 5, close-set, internodes 1–1.5 mm long. **Glumes** slightly ≤ length of utricles, deciduous, lanceolate, acute, membranous to chartaceous, midrib pale green. **Utricles** 4.5–5.5 × 1 mm, trigonous with a prominent lateral nerve, or subtrigonous and almost smooth, elliptic-lanceolate, olive-green, spreading when ripe, stipe indistinct, scarcely narrowed, up to 1 mm long, beak tapering, 1.5 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

A distinctive species distinguished from other New Zealand hook sedges, by the very narrow tapered leaves, and rather short spikes with relatively long utricles. In Flora II of the New Zealand Flora Series, *Carex longifructus* (as *Uncinia longifructis*) keys out near *C. drucei* (Hamlin) K.A.Ford (as *Uncinia drucei*) from which it differs by its leaves being < 1 mm rather than > 1 mm wide, and by the olive-green rather than dark brown coloured utricles. *Carex drucei* prefers drier forested habitats and rock outcrops than the deep moss, mossy peat shaded habitats preferred by *C. longifructus*. It is also a much less spreading, more shortly stoloniferous plant than *C. longifructus*. Exact relationships amongst the New Zealand hook sedges have yet to be determined, and will almost certainly require a full phylogenetic analysis.

## FLOWERING

October–December

## FRUITING

October–May

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. Probably easily grown in a moist, peaty soil.

## THREATS

Believed to be a naturally uncommon, ecologically sparse species. However it is poorly known from large parts of its reported range. Further survey to ascertain its exact status is much desired.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**longifructus**: From the Latin longus 'long' and fructus 'fruit'

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by Peter J. de Lange 17 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 longifructus* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-longifructus/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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