

# Carex minor

## COMMON NAME

bastard grass, hook sedge

## SYNONYMS

*Uncinia angustifolia* Hamlin; *Uncinia rupestris* Raoul var. *planifolia* Kük.

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex minor* (Kük.) K.A.Ford

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

UNCANG

## 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. In the North Island from Central Volcanic Plateau south (common around Wellington), on the other islands rather locally distributed and often absent.

## HABITAT

Coastal to upper montane. In forest, along forest margins and in scrub.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dark green, loosely tufted plants. **Culms** few, 100–350 × c. 0.3 mm, glabrous, 1–2 mm diameter at base (including sheathing bracts); basal bracts light to dark brown, not shining. **Leaves** 3–4 per culm, < culms, from slightly > 0.5 mm to 1.5 mm wide, dark green, strongly scabrid on margins and upper surface. **Spike** 20–50 × 2–3 mm, occasionally bracteate, female flowers 5–12, internodes up to 4 mm long at base of spike, 1.5–2.0 mm long above. **Glumes** usually c. ½ length of utricles, deciduous, ovate, acute or acuminate, hyaline with green midrib. **Utricles** 3.5–5.0 × c. 1 mm, trigonous, green to grey-brown, lateral nerves strongly developed, otherwise smooth, occasionally spreading when mature, beak 1.0–1.5 mm long, stipe c. 1 mm long.



Days Bay, Eastbourne. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/08/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Immature spikelet. Days Bay, Eastbourne. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/08/2007, Licence: CC BY.

### SIMILAR TAXA

Very similar to *Carex horizontalis* (Colenso) K.A.Ford from which it chiefly distinguished by its much smaller overall stature, although the line of demarcation is not rigid and intergrades occur. While elsewhere this species is sympatric with *C. horizontalis* it would appear that it is the only species present in the immediate Wellington area. From *Carex horizontalis*, *C. minor* is further distinguished by its very early flowering time (September–October cf. October–November in *C. horizontalis*)

### FLOWERING

September–October

### FRUITING

November–December

### 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.

**minor:** Smaller

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

### MORE INFORMATION

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