

Carex subviridis

COMMON NAME

hook sedge, bastard grass, hook grass

SYNONYMS

Uncinia distans Col. ex Boott; *Uncinia nelmesii* Hamlin

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Carex subviridis K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

UNCDIS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 88

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

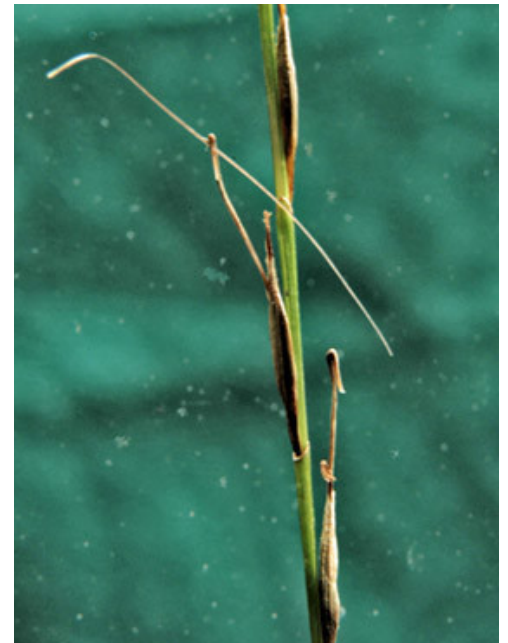
Endemic. New Zealand. North and South Islands. Often sparsely distributed but locally common in the Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Auckland and Northland.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Usually in forest, especially alluvial and riparian forest, or in dune forest. Also common in karst country around sink holes, tomo and within dolines..



Utricles with exerted stigmas. Eastern Wairarapa (from specimen collected by Pat Enright). Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 30/09/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Gordon Park, Wanganui. Feb 2007. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rather gracile, very light- to dark green, tussock-forming, plants. **Culms** 250–600 × 0.5 mm, slightly scabrid above; basal sheaths light brown or reddish, occasionally enclosing the culm for more than half its length. **Leaves** 4–7 per culm, culms, 1.5–3.0 mm wide, sharply scabrid on margins, slightly scabrid on upper surface towards tip. **Spikes** 40–140 mm long, often bracteate, lowermost glumes occasionally leaf-like and much > spike, male portion relatively long, female flowers c. 10–20, ± distant, internodes 6–12 mm long below, 2 mm long above. **Glumes** < utricles, deciduous, acute, lower 2–3 acuminate and often produced to a scabrid awn, membranous, green. **Utricles** 5.5–9.0 × c. 1.0 mm., plano-convex, narrow-oblong, light green or light brown, distinctly nerved, beak 1.5–2.0 mm long, narrow, with scabrid margins and occasionally a few teeth on the abaxial surface, stipe 1.5–2.0 mm long, narrow.

SIMILAR TAXA

Carex hamlinii K.A.Ford, another fine-leaved hook sedge has a superficial resemblance to *C. subviridis*. Both species have a similar gracile growth habit, and rather fine light-green leaves and lax inflorescences. However, *Carex hamlinii* is a more southerly species of higher elevation forest, which is easily distinguished from *C. subviridis* by its glabrous rather than scabrid utricles. In the northern part of its range *Carex subviridis* may grow with another fine-leaved species *Carex banksiana* K.A.Ford, from which it differs by its greater stature, and scabrid rather than glabrous utricles.

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

November–June

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. However, once established will tolerate a wide range of conditions except waterlogging.

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

MORE INFORMATION

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