

# Carex dissita

## COMMON NAME

forest sedge

## SYNONYMS

*Carex dissita* Boott var. *monticola* Kük.

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex dissita* Sol. ex Boott

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

CARDIS

## 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.

## HABITAT

Lowland to montane. Usually in riparian forest, where it may be abundant along stream sides.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



Coromandel, February. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Coromandel, February. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shortly rhizomatous; green leafy tufts, drooping above, 0.15-1.00 m high. **Culms** 0.5–1.5–(1.7) mm diameter, trigonous, striated, edges smooth; basal sheaths light brown, grey-brown or often dark red-purple. **Leaves** > or < culms, 1.5–5.0 mm wide, double-folded, bright green or yellow-green, or red-green with red margins and midvein red abaxially, margins finely scabrid. **Spikes** 4–8; terminal spike male, rarely with a few female flowers at the top or with 1–2 very small male spikes at the base; remaining spikes female, usually with a few male flowers at the base, more rarely male at the top, 5–30 × 4–6 mm, uppermost spikes erect on very short peduncles, ± distant, lowest spike often quite remote and drooping from a slender peduncle. **Glumes** (excluding awn) slightly < utricles, ovate, emarginate to almost entire, pale reddish green or light brown, to dark red-brown with paler margins, membranous, midrib broad, pale brown, occasionally bright red-purple or straw-coloured, with 3 distinct, almost white, nerves produced to a usually short scabrid mucro. **Utricles** 2.0–3.0 × c. 1.5 mm, biconvex, turgid, ovoid, yellow-brown or cream at the base, red-purple to almost black above, abaxial face usually lighter coloured and more distinctly nerved than the other, margins occasionally very finely scabrid below the beak; beak c. 0.5 mm long, almost white, deeply bifid with divergent crura, orifice scabrid; stipe c. 0.3 mm. long. **Stigmas** 3. **Nut** c. 1.5 mm long, trigonous, ovoid, light brown.

## SIMILAR TAXA

The distant, dark brown, rather short and stout, usually shortly pedunculate female spikes are a characteristic feature of this species. The utricles are also distinctly bicoloured basally cream to yellow brown and red-purple to black above. This feature helps distinguish this species from *C. solandri* Boott in Hook.f., a species with which it is most often confused, and which usually has uniformly dark coloured utricles (rarely light brown and pale yellow near the base). *Carex solandri* further differs from *C. dissita* by its long filiform peduncles. The two species often grow together.

## FLOWERING

August–November

## FRUITING

October–May

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of established plants. A popular species in cultivation, though many plants sold as this species are in fact *C. solandri*. Excellent for a permanently damp situation in a shaded site but will tolerate full sun and dry conditions once established.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (10 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 dissita* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-dissita/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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