

# Carex secta

## COMMON NAME

purei, pukio

## SYNONYMS

*Carex virgata* var. *secta* (Boott) Hook.f., *C. paniculata* var. *secta* (Boott) Cheeseman, *C. appressa* var. *secta* (Boott) Kük.

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carex secta* Boott

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

CARSEC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = c.70$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Found throughout the North, South and Stewart Islands. Also on the main Chatham Island, though scarce.

## HABITAT

Widespread in suitable wetlands from coastal to montane wetlands.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tussock forming sedge up to 1.5 × 0.8 m, mature specimens with trunk-like bases comprised of matted rhizomes, roots and old culm-bases. **Culms** 0.25–1–(1.5) m, drooping, trigonous, scabrid, basal sheaths brown to light-brown. **Leaves** 1.5–7 mm wide, light green to yellow-green (rarely dark green—then in heavy shade), equal to or longer than culms, drooping, channelled, margins and keel scabrid. **Inflorescence** a loosely branched, somewhat slender, drooping panicle 0.45–1 m long. **Spikes** pale brown, mostly clustered towards the ends of the slender branchlets. **Utricles** chestnut brown to dark brown, margins weakly winged, scabrid, light brown to brown, apex with a minute to distinct beak.



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



Utricles. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 05/02/2008, Licence: CC BY.

### SIMILAR TAXA

*C. appressa*, *C. sectoides*, *C. tenuiculmis* and *C. virgata*. From *C. appressa* and *C. virgata*, it can be distinguished by its branched, drooping, paniculate inflorescence. From *C. sectoides*, by its smaller stature, and slender, longer, drooping inflorescence branchlets. *C. sectoides* is sympatric with *C. secta* at only one site on main Chatham Island. From *C. tenuiculmis*, it differs by its light green to yellow-green, rather than wine-red foliage, and larger panicles with more numerous branchlets.

### FLOWERING

(September)–October–November–(December)

### FRUITING

October–March

### LIFE CYCLE

Nuts surrounded by inflated utricles are dispersed by granivory and wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of established plants. Although a wetland species *C. secta* will grow well in most soils and moisture regimes. Does best in full sun.

### ETYMOLOGY

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

**secta**: Much divided (panicle)

### WHERE TO BUY

Commonly cultivated. Sold by most garden centres.

### 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.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.

### NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Carex secta* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carex-secta/> (Date website was queried)

### MORE INFORMATION

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