



***Uncinia auceps* (Cyperaceae): a new endemic hooked sedge for the Chatham Islands**

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Abstract

Uncinia auceps is described as a new species from Chatham Islands, New Zealand. The new species is segregated from and compared with *U. uncinata*, a species endemic to the other New Zealand islands. *Uncinia auceps* occurs mainly in forest habitats on most of the main islands of the Chatham Island archipelago. In addition, a distribution map and the conservation status of the new species are presented.

Key words: Cyperaceae, new species, Chatham Islands, New Zealand flora, *Uncinia*

Introduction

The Chatham Islands (Fig. 1) are the most easterly part of the New Zealand archipelago. Located at about 44°S the group occupies an area of c.97000 ha, and comprises two main islands Chatham (Rekohu) Island and Pitt (Rangiauria) Island (both referred hereafter as Rekohu and Rangiauria, respectively), several smaller islands, islets (Mangere, Little Mangere, Rangatira (South East Island), Star Keys (Motuhope), Forty Fours (Motuhara), The Sisters (Rangitatahi) and The Pyramid (Tarakoikoia), and numerous rock stacks and wave-washed reefs (de Lange & Sawyer 2008; de Lange *et al.* 2011).

The islands have a vascular plant flora of 875 taxa (including hybrid combinations), 400 of these are regarded as indigenous (de Lange *et al.* 2011). Thirty-eight taxa are endemic, a figure which includes the two endemic, monotypic genera *Embergeria* Boulos (Eichler 1965: 332) and *Myosotidium* Hook. (Hooker 1859: t. 5137) (Heenan *et al.* 2010; de Lange *et al.* 2011). The last full flora treatment of the islands was published by Mueller (1864), and as a new flora for the islands is long over due this is now being prepared (de Lange *et al.* 2011). As part of that process the authors have undertaken extensive field work on the islands between 2002 and 2008, during which a number of potentially new and endemic plants have been discovered (de Lange *et al.* 2011). Two of these have already been named and described; *Olearia telmatica* Heenan et de Lange (Heenan *et al.* 2008: 575) and *Myoporum semotum* Heenan et de Lange (Heenan & de Lange 2011: 22). This paper continues that process for the islands, describing a new endemic species segregated from *Uncinia uncinata* (L.f.) Kük. (Kükenthal 1909: 62).

Currently, New Zealand has 34 species of *Uncinia* (Moore & Edgar 1970; Heenan 1996; Heenan & de Lange 2001; Lehnebach 2011), with three species occurring on the Chatham Islands: *U. angustifolia* Hamlin (Hamlin 1959: 42–43), *U. zotovii* Hamlin (Hamlin 1959: 37–39) and *U. aff. uncinata* (de Lange *et al.* 2011; Lehnebach 2011). *Uncinia aff. uncinata*, the subject of this paper, has been the source of much confusion by past visitors to Chatham Islands, many of whom have variously referred specimens to *U. clavata* (Kük.)