



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Navua sedge (449)

Relates to: **Weeds**



Photo 1. Expanse of navua sedge, *Kyllinga polyphylla*.



Photo 2. Thick expanse of flowering navua sedge, *Kyllinga polyphylla*, showing the leaf-like bracts below the flowerhead.



Photo 3. Stems with flowerheads of navua sedge, *Kyllinga polyphylla*.



Diagram. Drawing of navua sedge, *Kyllinga polyphylla*. Note, the rhizome - the underground stem, giving rise to above-ground stems and roots.



Photo 4. Flowerhead, navua sedge, *Kyllinga polyphylla*.

Summary

- Restricted. South and Southeast Asia, Africa, South America, Caribbean, Oceania. In Australia, FSM, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia. Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu.
- Invasive, aggressive, perennial, grass-like, sedge, with underground stem, producing large amounts of seed, forming dense stands, colonising plantations, rice fields, pastures and replacing native vegetation.

- Height, 30-70 cm. Underground stem produces shoots and roots. Leaves, 5 cm long, at base of a 3-sided stem, with white flowerheads at the top forming a knot of flowers (spikelets) with six, leaf-like structures of different lengths. Seeds, 250 per flowerhead, brown to black, egg-shaped, with hooks. Aromatic smell when rhizome crushed.
- Spread: rhizomes; seed by birds and other animals; footwear; stem pieces during cultivation.
- Biosecurity: Among 10 worst weeds in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands.
- Biocontrol: Little known. Comparison of Asian and Pacific sedges needed.
- Cultural control: dig out and turn over; disc and allow to dry out; heavy rollers (repeating 8-12 week intervals); vehicle hygiene to remove seed; avoid over-grazing pasture (maintain healthy growth).
- Chemical control: in Australia: glyphosate; halosulfuron-methyl. Follow-up treatments required to treat seedlings. In Fiji, MCPA.

Common Name

Navua sedge

Scientific Name

Kyllinga polyphylla. It was known previously as *Cyperus aromaticus*. It is a member of the Cyperaceae.

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Information from ¹Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press, Melbourne; and CABI (2019) *Kyllinga polyphylla* (Navua sedge). Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/17492#toPictures>); Navua sedge, *Cyperus aromaticus* (2016) Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Biosecurity Queensland. (https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/51010/IPA-Navua-Sedge-PP53.pdf); Navua sedge (*Cyper aromaticus*). Photo 2 Jim Space, Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER), Bgwood.org. Photo 3 James Cook University, Australia. Diagram Enler A (1910) *Die Pflanzenwelt Afrikas, insbesondere seiner tropischen Gebiete: Grundzüge der Pflanzenverbreitung im Afrika und die Charakterpflanzen Afrikas*. Leipzig: W. Engelmann.

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