

Juncus lomatophyllus

COMMON NAME

broad-leaved rush

SYNONYMS

Australojuncus lomatophyllus (Spreng.) Záveská Drábková & Pročková

FAMILY

Juncaceae

AUTHORITY

Juncus lomatophyllus Spreng.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Leafy rush to 74 cm tall, leaves broad (to 1.5 cm wide), flattened often with pink base, with young leafy shoots at the base attached to creeping stems, with branched flowerheads made up of 3–12 clusters of dark-brown to black flowers/capsules (fruit).

DISTRIBUTION

Widespread and locally abundant in northern Westland.

HABITAT

Wet pasture and a wide range of wet habitats.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, grass-like perennial, with leafy offsets. **Stems** 15–75 cm high, > leaves. **Leaves** 6–15 mm wide, flat, of thin texture, tapering gradually from the wide base to a small fine point, bluish-green, occasionally reddish-tinged near margins and tips; sheaths red. **Inflorescence** 10–26 cm long, open, with many spreading branches. **Flowers** in clusters of 3–12 at tips of branches, clusters \pm 10 mm diam. **Tepals** 3.5–4.5 mm long, \pm equal. **Stamens** 6. **Capsules** c. 3 mm long, < tepals, narrow, acute, dark brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

No other grass-leaved rushes has such large and wide leaves, perhaps the native *J. planifolius* is the most similar, but lacks the stoloniferous sward-forming growth habit and has much smaller (< 2.5 mm) capsules and flower clusters.

FLOWERING

Summer

FLOWER COLOURS

Black, Brown

FRUITING

Autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Seed dispersed by animals, water or contaminated machinery.



YEAR NATURALISED

1969

ORIGIN

South Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, seed or soil contaminant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Rarely controlled, but can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation, susceptible to grazing.

ETYMOLOGY

juncus: From the Latin *jungere* 'to tie or bind', the stems of some species being used to make cord (Johnson and Smith)

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Subgenus *Juncus*, Section *Graminifolii* Kirschner (2002: *Juncaceae* 2)

Proćków et al. (2023) proposed a taxonomic segregation of *Juncus* into six genera based on molecular and morphological evidence. Whilst it has long been recognised that the current circumscription of *Juncus* includes morphologically divergent taxa—reflected in the recognition of numerous subgenera and sections—the consensus view of the NZPCN website taxonomy subcommittee, taking into consideration advice from Australian *Juncus* expert Dr Karen Wilson (NSW Herbarium) and others in Europe is that the generic segregations proposed need further consideration and testing. Accordingly, it has been decided to maintain the current broad circumscription of *Juncus*, but to include all new names as synonyms in factsheets. We thank, in particular, Dr Wilson for her helpful comments.

ATTRIBUTION

Prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Healy and Edgar (1980).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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Kirschner, J. (compiler) (2002). *Juncaceae* 2: *Juncus* subg. *Juncus*, Species Plantarum: Flora of the World Part 7: 1–336.

Proćków, J., Záveská Drábková, L. 2023. A revision of the *Juncaceae* with delimitation of six new genera: nomenclatural changes in *Juncus*. *Phytotaxa* 622(1): 17–41.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/juncus-lomatophyllus/>