

Agrostis oresbia

COMMON NAMES

mountain bent

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Data Deficient

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted or stoloniferous plants 50–250 mm, culms overtopping leaves. **Leaf-sheath** hyaline, light green to light brown, prominently ribbed, smooth, rarely with prickly teeth. **Ligule** 1–4.5 mm, truncate to obtuse, denticulate or entire, glabrous. **Leaf-blade** 20–70 × 1.5–2 mm, flat or folded, undersides smooth, upper prominently ribbed, margins usually smooth, sometimes sparsely to densely, scabrid, apex tapered, blunt, scabrid. **Culm** erect, internodes glabrous. **Panicle** (15–)20–60 mm, open, lax, oblong to pyramidal, with spreading or flexuous branches; rachis smooth, branches and pedicels smooth or scabrid. **Spikelets** 2–2.5(–3) mm, purplish. **Glumes** unequal, acute to acuminate, keel scabrid near apex, margins smooth, sometimes scabrid near apex; lower, 2–2.5(–3) mm, ovate-lanceolate, upper 1.7–2.5(–3) mm, elliptic-lanceolate. **Lemma** 1.5–2 mm, glabrous, faintly 5-nerved, ovate, obtuse; awn (1.5–)2–3 mm, geniculate, slightly projecting beyond glumes. **Callus** with minute hairs. **Anthers** 0.4–0.9 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Agrostis oresbia could be confused with *A. magellanica* Lam. but it is a smaller plant in all respects. It is perhaps closest to *A. muelleriana* Vickery from which it differs by its larger, more open, and laxer panicle, and by the glumes which are less scabrid and papillose. *A. oresbia* has a somewhat similar appearance to *A. personata* Edgar, from which it can be distinguished by its intravaginal innovations; awned lemmas; and by the abaxially smooth ligules. Palea 0.5 mm, ovate.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island (Raukumara, Ruahine and Tararua Ranges). South Island, North-West Nelson (Lake Aorere and Mt Domett only)

HABITAT

A subalpine to alpine species frequenting damp seepages and water courses within tussock grassland and on rocky ground, shaded cliff faces or screes, occasionally on river flats.

THREATS

Not threatened but rather a naturally uncommon species of spradic occurrence which is why it has been listed

GENUS

Agrostis

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Agrostis oresbia Edgar

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Unknown

FRUITING

Unknown

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Florets are dispersed by wind and water (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown but should be easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces

ETYMOLOGY

agrostis: Greek name for a kind of grass

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to the grasses of New Zealand](#)

NVS CODE

AGRORE

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 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.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange June 2005. Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000). Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/agrostis-oresbia/>

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