

# Agrostis oresbia

## COMMON NAME

mountain bent

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

Agrostis oresbia Edgar

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

AGRORE

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

## 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.

## FEATURES

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 x 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**

*A. 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.

### **FLOWERING**

unknown

### **FRUITING**

unknown

### **LIFE CYCLE**

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

### **PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE**

Unknown but should be easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces

### **THREATS**

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

### **ETYMOLOGY**

**agrostis**: Greek name for a kind of grass

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange June 2005. Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).

### **REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING**

Edgar, E.; Connor, H.E. 2000: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 pp.  
Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

### **MORE INFORMATION**

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