

Agrostis subulata

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Agrostis subulata Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

AGRSUB

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

HABITAT

Peat covered rock ledges and sills, herbfields and in *Chionochloa antarctica* (Hook.f.) Zotov grassland.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small, densely tufted perennial 30–90 mm tall, with rigidly erect glaucous leaves usually overtopping the light green, spicate panicles. **Branching** intravaginal. **Leaf-sheath** light brown, more or less hyaline, strongly ribbed, finely scabrid particularly near margins. **Ligule** 0.8–1.0(–1.6) mm, margins denticulate, undersides scabrid. **Leaf-blade** 15.0–40.0 × 0.3–0.6 mm, firmly fleshy, inrolled, strongly ribbed, finely and closely scabrid, apex blunt. **Culm** hidden within leaves, erect, internodes scabrid. **Panicle** 10–20 mm long, condensed, tightly oblong; rachis, branches and pedicels erect, closely short-scabrid. **Spikelets** 2.0–3.3 mm. **Glumes** subequal, lanceolate, pale green, occasionally tinged with purple, surfaces with antrorse prickle-teeth or minutely hairy, consistently glabrous near base. **Lemma** 1.3–1.6 mm long, glabrous, prominently 5-nerved, ovate, truncate, minutely denticulate, margins finely scabrid near apex, without awns or rarely with a fine awn arising c.2 mm from the upper third of midnerve. **Palea** 0.3–0.4 mm, ovate. **Lodicules** 0.4 mm long. **Callus** glabrous. **Anthers** 0.4–0.7 mm long. **Seed** 1.0 × 0.5 mm.



In gravel pans at 400 m ASL on the south slopes of Omega Peak, Main Auckland Island. Photographer: Alex Fergus, Date taken: 18/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.



In gravel pans at 400 m ASL on the south slopes of Omega Peak, Main Auckland Island. Photographer: Alex Fergus, Date taken: 18/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to the grasses of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

Agrostis muelleriana which is confined to the North and South Islands of New Zealand and Australia and differs by the deep reddish purple rarely green glumes smooth or papillose, with the keels finely scabrid.

FLOWERING

unknown

FRUITING

unknown

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Has not been cultivated. Probably easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces but likely to require cold treatment to flower. Unlikely to tolerate warm, humid conditions.

THREATS

An uncommon narrow range endemic.

ETYMOLOGY

agrostis: Greek name for a kind of grass

subulata: From the Latin subulam 'awl', meaning awl-shaped

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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