# Agrostis subulata

## BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, RR
Jump to previous conservation statuses

## CATEGORY
Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS
Grasses

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## THREATS
An uncommon narrow range endemic.

## GENUS
Agrostis

## FAMILY
Poaceae

## AUTHORITY
Agrostis subulata Hook.f.

## SYNONYMS
None

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## 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
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.

## ETYMOLOGY
**agrostis**: Greek name for a kind of grass
**subulata**: From the Latin subulam 'awl', meaning awl-shaped

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY
Key to the grasses of New Zealand

## NVS CODE
AGRSUB

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE
2004 | Range Restricted
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
Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).
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## MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/agrostis-subulata/

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