

# Apodasmia similis

## COMMON NAME

jointed wire rush, oioi

## SYNONYMS

Leptocarpus similis Edgar

## FAMILY

Restionaceae

## AUTHORITY

Apodasmia similis (Edgar) Briggs et L.A.S.Johnson

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

## NVS CODE

APOSIM

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Three Kings, North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands.

## HABITAT

Mostly coastal in estuaries, saltmarshes, dunes and sandy flats and hollows. Occasionally inland in gumland scrub, along lake margins, fringing peat bogs or surrounding hot springs.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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



Male plant, Colville, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Female plant, Colville, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dioecious, rush-like perennial herb. **Rhizomes** 3–7 mm diameter, covered in closely sheathing, imbricating, dark brown scales, 10–20 mm long, each enclosing a tuft of coarse brown hairs. **Culms** numerous, 0.5–2.6 × 1.5–2.5–(3.0) mm, densely packed, erect, sometimes with upper third decurved to more or less pendulous, simple, terete, glaucous, grey-green, yellow-green or red-green. **Leaves** reduced to bract-like sheaths, these dark brown or maroon-black, regularly spaced at 70–90 mm intervals at the base of the culm, 10–60 mm apart higher up; margins entire. **Male inflorescences** paniculate or fascicled, bearing numerous stalked spikelets; upper floral bracts ovate-lanceolate, mucronate, red-brown to maroon, margins membranous; tepals 4–6 more or less completely hyaline, the outer longer, brownish, the inner shorter, paler; stamens 3; ovary rudimentary. **Female inflorescences** fascicled, spikelets more or less sessile; upper floral bracts ovate, mucronate, > tepals; tepals 6, the outer keeled, lanceolate, acuminate, inner flat, smaller, more or less hyaline, more obtuse, mucronate; styles 3, united to midway, bright red to orange-red; staminodes 0. **Fruit** c. 1 × 0.5 mm, triquetrous, indehiscent. **Seed** c. 1 × 0.4 mm, oblong-elliptical, golden-brown, surface reticulate, both ends apiculate, one end dark brown, the other, almost white.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Easily distinguished from *Sporadanthus* F.Muell and *Empodisma* L.A.S.Johnson et D.F.Cutler by the unbranched, mostly grey-green, or reddish stems bearing regularly spaced bract-like, sheathing dark brown or maroon-black leaves, and terminal, many-flowered, paniculate to fascicled male and female spikelets.

## FLOWERING

October–December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Red/Pink

## FRUITING

December–March

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and rooted pieces. Does well in a range of soils and moisture regimes. Requires full sun to flourish. Now a very popular tub and traffic island plant in some cities—most material seen is from the Chatham Islands.

## ETYMOLOGY

**apodasmia**: From the Greek apodasmios meaning ‘separated’, referring to the widely disjunct distribution of the species (there are two species in Australia, one in New Zealand and one in Chile) (Briggs & Johnson, 1998)

**similis**: Similar to another species

## WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from mainstream plant and specialist native plant nurseries. Most stock seen is of the large, glaucous Chatham Island form.

## CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

Needs critical comparison with *Apodasmia chilensis* (Gay) B.G.Briggs et L.A.S.Johnson, particularly the Chatham Island plants which seem a close match for that South American species.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Edgar and Moore (1970).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Briggs BG, Johnson LAS. 1998. New genera and species of Australian Restionaceae (Poales). *Telopea* 7(4): 345–373.

Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 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.

### NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Apodasmia similis* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/apodasmia-similis/> (Date website was queried)

### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/apodasmia-similis/>