

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



Female plant, Colville, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

FEATURES

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 x 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 6-4 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 x 0.5 mm, triquetrous, indehiscent. Seed c.1 x 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, B.G. & Johnson, L.A.S. (1998) New genera and species of Australian Restionaceae (Poales). *Telopea* 7: 345-373. http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/73237/Tel7Bri345.pdf

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora.

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NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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