

# Centrolepis ciliata

## COMMON NAMES

centrolepis

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Diminutive, moss like herbs forming very broad, dark red-green to red-brown, broad, raised cushions up to 300 mm wide and up to 80 mm tall.

**Roots** rather thick, fleshy, white or grey, up to 0.5 mm diameter. **Stems** very closely packed. **Leaves** 5–25 mm long, distichous, closely imbricate, setaceous, lamina channelled or terete, tip minutely acicular; sheath with ciliate margins, often produced at the tip into a ligule. **Flowering stems** > leaves. **Glume-like bracts** 2, ± equal, minutely papillate, tips inrolled, apparently opposite but the lowermost encloses a short peduncle bearing the upper glume and its flowers. **Pseudanthia** 1–2 in the lower bract, 1 rarely 2 in the upper, each subtended by a hyaline scale. **Male flower** 1 or 0 in each pseudanthium. **Female flower** 2 (rarely 1) in each pseudanthium; stigmas bright red, not connate at the base. **Seed** slightly < 1 mm long, oblong-elliptical, pale yellow, apiculate at each end, one tip very dark.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by the moss-like, compact, dark red-green to brown-green, broad, raised cushions, and leaves which have finely ciliate sheaths rather than ciliate sheaths and leaves.

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (from Central Volcanic Plateau and adjacent main axial ranges south), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku. Also Tasmania.

## HABITAT

In upper montane, subalpine to alpine bogs through main islands but descending to sea level in the pakihi of Westland, in Southland, Stewart Island/Rakiura and in the Subantarctic islands.

## GENUS

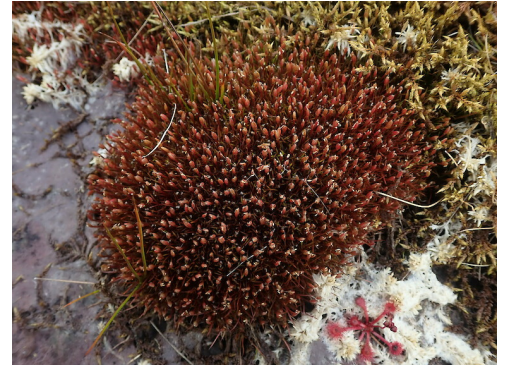
Centrolepis

## FAMILY

Restionaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Centrolepis ciliata* (Hook.f.) Druce



In tarn, thousand acre plateau. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 07/01/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Key Summit. December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SYNONYMS

*Gaimardia ciliata* Hook.f.; *Alepyrum ciliatum* (Hook.f.) Hieron.; *Centrolepis viridis* Kirk; *Centrolepis viridis* Kirk var. *ligulata* (Kirk) Cheeseman; *Pseudalepyrum ciliatum* (Hook.f.) Dandy; *Pseudalepyrum ciliatum* (Hook.f.) Dandy var. *ligulatum* (Kirk) Dandy

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

*Centrolepis* was formerly in the family Centrolepidaceae, which was shown by Briggs et al. (2014) to be embedded within Restionaceae. Based on these findings, the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group adopted an enlarged concept of Restionaceae that included Centrolepidaceae (APG IV 2016), which is followed by NZPCN.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

November–January

## FRUITING

January–March

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

## ETYMOLOGY

**centrolepis**: Pointed scale

**ciliata**: From the Latin cilia 'eyelash', meaning fringed with hairs

## NVS CODE

CENCIL

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened [Help](#)

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Angiosperm Phylogeny Group. 2016. An update of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group classification for the orders and families of flowering plants: APG IV. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 181: 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1111/boj.12385>.
- Briggs BG, Marchant AD, Perkins AJ. 2014. Phylogeny of the restiid clade (Poales) and implications for the classification of Anarthriaceae, Centrolepidaceae and Australian Restionaceae. *Taxon* 63: 24–46. <https://doi.org/10.12705/631.1>.
- 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.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 14 August 2006. Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970) Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/centrolepis-ciliata/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026