

Centrolepis strigosa

COMMON NAMES

centrolepis

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: Sp, DPT, RR, SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Delicate tufted annual 15–70 mm tall. **Roots** fine, fibrous (whole plant easily detached from soil). **Leaves** 10–30 × 0.2 mm, filiform, grey-green to green, hispid the surfaces being covered in long white, rigid, multicellular hairs; apices acicular, otherwise leaves broadening toward a membranous sheath. **Flowering stems** 20–65 × 0.4 mm, much longer than leaves, hispid with very fine somewhat tangled, white hairs. **Glume-like bracts** 2–3, these 3 mm long, green or pinkish-green with a narrow membranous margin, ovate and spreading, covered with long, rigid, multicellular hairs; awns glabrous 1 mm long with an acicular apex. **Pseudanthia** 4–8 in each bract, these almost equal to bracts in length, each with 3 hyaline, unequal, fringed scales, one very much shorter the other two of similar length, sheathing the male and female flowers, **Male flowers** set with 1 per partial inflorescence. **Female flowers** 4–8 per partial inflorescence, connate and superposed in 2 rows, or occasionally appearing spirally arranged. **Styles** not connate. **Seed** 0.5 mm long, brown with a dark tip at each end, obovate-oblong, blunt at the apex, surface finely reticulated.

SIMILAR TAXA

None. A very distinctive and singular species which has little resemblance to the other endemic New Zealand *Centrolepis* species (see Fact Sheets).

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island and South Island. In the North Island known locally from the Kai Iwi Lakes, Glinks Gully and Bayly's Beach (west of Dargaville) to Lake Ototoa (see de Lange 2011). In the South Island known only from near Bluff Hill and Invercargill. Also in Australia.

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland. Growing in open clay, sand or silty places in damp places near lake or pond margins, or on open sand pans within gumland scrub (see de Lange 2011).

THREATS

A naturally uncommon, biologically sparse, seasonal annual. Although it has not been reliably reported from Bluff and Invercargill for many years it is probably still present there. It is seasonally abundant at the Kai Iwi Lakes (de Lange 2011).

GENUS

Centrolepis



Kaiwi Lakes. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/01/2011, Licence: CC BY.



Kaiwi Lakes. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/01/2011, Licence: CC BY.

FAMILY

Restionaceae

AUTHORITY

Centrolepis strigosa (R.Br.) Roem. et Schult.

SYNONYMS

Desvauxia strigosa R.Br.

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

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December–February

FRUITING

December–March–(April)

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

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

centrolepis: Pointed scale

NVS CODE

CENSTR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP, EF, RR, SO, Sp

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: EF, RR, SO, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO, EF

2004 | Sparse

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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>.
- de Lange PJ. 2011. *Centrolepis strigosa* – a rarely seen annual. *Trilepidea* 86: 7–9.
- 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. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (14 August 2006). Description based on 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-strigosa/>

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