

# Chionochloa beddiei

## COMMON NAMES

Beddie's tussock, Cook Strait tussock

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: Sp, RR, RF

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Short, shiny tussock with stiff and widely spreading shoots and persistent leaves. **Leaf-sheath** to 150 mm, slightly keeled, pale yellow, persistent, becoming fibrous, margins above with long hairs, apical tuft of hairs to 2 mm. **Ligule** to 0.5 mm. **Leaf-blade** to 600 × 4 mm, flat to U-shaped, persistent, deflexed at collar, abaxially glabrous, adaxially with a weft of short hairs at base, abundant prickle-teeth above; margin with long hairs below, becoming shaggy, hairs mostly antrorse and appressed. **Culm** to 750 mm, internodes glabrous except for short, dense hairs below inflorescence. **Inflorescence** to 150 mm, congested with short branches, bristling with awns; rachis, branches and pedicels short soft hairy. **Spikelets** of up to 5 florets. **Glumes** to 13 mm, shortly awned, < adjacent lemma lobes, prickle-teeth above, otherwise glabrous; lower 1–3-nerved, upper 1–5-nerved. **Lemma** to 6 mm; hairs dense at margin and in all internerves, or sometimes only aside central nerve, > sinus; lateral lobes to 11 mm including strict awn to 8 mm, prickle-teeth adaxially and abaxially and on lemma margins; central awn to 22 mm much deflexed from twisting column to 4 mm. **Palea** to 8.5 mm, produced into two conspicuous narrow processes; prickle-teeth abaxially above. **Callus** to 1 mm, hairs to 5 mm. **Rachilla** to 1 mm. **Lodicules** to 1.75 mm. **Anthers** to 4.5 mm. **Ovary** to 1 mm; stigma-styles to 4 mm. **Seeds** to 3 mm.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (South Wellington Coast from about the Orongorongo River east to White Rock east of Cape Palliser).

## HABITAT

Coastal and lowland. Usually on coastal bluffs, cliffs, talus slopes and sparsely scrub-covered promontories, occasionally extending for short distances inland.

## THREATS

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a naturally uncommon, regional endemic.

## GENUS

Chionochloa

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

Chionochloa beddiei Zotov



Cape Palliser. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 03/10/2009, Licence: CC BY.



Spikelets. Cape Palliser. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 03/10/2009, Licence: CC BY.

## SYNONYMS

None

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

November–December

## FRUITING

December–May

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be difficult. Best grown from fresh seed. Plants should be planted where they are to grow as they resent much root disturbance. Best in full sun, in a freely draining soil or on a stone wall. Dislikes humidity.

## ETYMOLOGY

**chionochloa**: Snow grass

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to the grasses of New Zealand](#)

## NVS CODE

CHIBED

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 42$

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: PD, RR, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: PD, RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

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/chionochloa-beddiei/>

## PDF DATE

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