

Chionochloa flavicans f. temata

COMMON NAME

Te Mata Peak snow tussock

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1991)

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Chionochloa flavicans f. temata Connor

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Hawkes Bay, where it is only known from Te Mata Peak, Havelock North.

HABITAT

Confined to limestone cliffs where it can at times be locally dominant.

FEATURES

Tall, rather stout, often sprawling, flabellate tussock with persistent leaves and sheaths. Leaf-sheath to 150 mm, pinkish or purplish, chartaceous, entire, becoming fibrous, keeled, glabrous or with a few long hairs, apical tuft of hairs to 1 mm. Ligule to 0.7 mm. Leaf-blade to 750 × 8 mm, dark green, often distinctly glaucous, keeled, persistent, glabrous except for some short hairs above ligule and prickle-teeth on margins and abaxially at apex. Culm to 1.5 m, internodes glabrous. Inflorescence to 300 mm, clavate, dense and compact, not naked below; rachis smooth below, branches and pedicels densely scabrid and with some long hairs at branch axils. Spikelets of up to 4 distant florets. Glumes to 4 mm, broad, shallowly bifid, sometimes purpled, margins ciliate, prickle-teeth adaxially above, < nearest lemma lobes; lower 3-nerved, upper 5-nerved. Lemma to 4 mm, shorter and broader than typical form; hairs dense on margin, few aside central nerve, rarely reaching sinus, prickle-teeth above adaxially and abaxially on nerves; lateral lobes to 0.2 mm, conspicuously awned adjacent to a small lobe; central awn to 6 mm, reflexed, column absent. Palea to 4.5 mm, interkeel with a few short hairs. Callus to 1.5 mm, hairs to 4 mm. Rachilla to 0.25 mm. Lodicules to 1 mm. Anthers to 4 mm. Ovary to 1 mm; stigma-styles to 3 mm. Seeds to 3 mm



SIMILAR TAXA

Very closely related to *C. flavicans* Zotov. f. *flavicans* from which it differs by its smaller overall floret dimensions, more compact growth habit, and leaves which are often distinctly blue-tinged.

FLOWERING

September - November

FRUITING

November - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unlike its close relative *C. flavicans* f. *flavicans*, f. *temata* has proved to be rather slow growing and often fickle in cultivation. It is an attractive plant with slightly more glaucous leaves than f. *flavicans*, and so well worth trying to grow.

THREATS

A narrow range limestone endemic, naturally confined to a localized limestone outcrop where it is one of the more common species present.

ETYMOLOGY

chionochloa: Snow grass

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally offered by specialist native plant nurseries.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Edgar, E.; Connor, H.E. 2000: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 pp.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Chionochloa flavicans* f. *temata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chionochloa-flavicans-f-temata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chionochloa-flavicans-f-temata/>