

# Ficinia nodosa

## COMMON NAME

wiwi, knobby club rush, ethel sedge

## SYNONYMS

*Scirpus nodosus* Rottb., *Isolepis nodosa* (Rottb.) R.Br., *Scirpoides nodosa* (Rottb.) Sojak; *Holoschoenus nodosus* (Rottb.) Dietr.

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ficinia nodosa* (Rottb.) Goetgh., Muasya et D.A.Simpson

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

FICNOD

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 30

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Kermadec, Three Kings, North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. Widespread in the southern Hemisphere

## HABITAT

Mostly coastal but occasional extending into montane area (up to 700 m a.s.l.). In a wide range of habitats but favouring open situations - commonly on sand, especially on sand dunes, sandy beaches and at the back of estuaries. Sometimes colonising sandstone, limestone or volcanic rock outcrops in lowland forest. Rarely in tussock grassland.



Coromandel, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Coromandel, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

## FEATURES

Rhizome short, 5-10 mm diameter, ascending to subhorizontal, woody, covered with red-brown bracts 5-10 mm long. Culms numerous, somewhat woody, 0.15-2.0 m, 1-2 mm diameter, yellow-green to bronze-green, densely packed on rhizome, rush-like, rigid and erect (sometimes in lush specimens with upper third curving over), terete or slightly compressed, finely striated when dry. Leaves reduced to 3-6 basal sheaths, the uppermost 50-130 mm long, brown or red-brown, the oblique orifice slightly dilated. Inflorescence an apparently lateral, solitary, hemispherical head, 7-15 mm wide, comprised of numerous, densely crowded, sessile spikelets; subtending bract continuous with the culm, rigid, erect, pungent, > inflorescence. Spikelets 3-4 mm long, ovoid, light brown. Glumes broadly ovate, obtuse, margins entire, more or less apiculate. reddish towards the tips, lateral nerves conspicuous. Hypogynous bristles 0. Stamens 3. Style-branches 3. Nut 1 mm long, < 1 mm wide, plano-convex to trigonous, apiculate, dark brown to almost black, shining.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Easily distinguished from *Isolepis* R.Br. by the larger overall size, stout, woody rhizomes, by the rigid and mostly erect somewhat woody culms, and by the presence of a gynophore.

## FLOWERING

September - December

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

November - May

## LIFE CYCLE

Nuts are possibly wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of whole plants. Does best when planted in a free draining soil in a sunny site. Ideal in coastal sites but remarkably cold tolerant.

## ETYMOLOGY

**ficinia**: Named after Heinrich David Auguste Ficus, 19th century German botanist

## WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries

## CULTURAL IMPORTANCE

*Ficinia nodosa* is naturalised around the New Zealand World War II, soldier graves at Suda Bay, Crete.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

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

Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Ficinia nodosa* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ficinia-nodosa/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ficinia-nodosa/>