

# Isolepis aucklandica

## SYNONYMS

*Isolepis subcucullata* Bergg.; *Isolepis cartilaginea* var. *rigida* Bergg.; *Scirpus aucklandicus* (Hook.f.) Boeck; *S. aucklandicus* var. *subcucullata* (Bergg.) C.B. Clarke; *Scirpus muscosus* Kirk;

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Isolepis aucklandica* Hook.f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

ISOAUC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 42$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North, South, Stewart, Antipodes, Auckland, Campbell, Macquarie Islands. Also in Australia.

## HABITAT

Coastal to alpine (up to 1300 m a.s.l.). Mostly montane in the northern part of its range. A species of boggy ground in forest as well as wetlands, often growing on peaty turf on forest margins or on permanently damp rock shelves or seepages in forest.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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



Mt Holdsworth, February. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mount Ruapehu. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/02/2012, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Widely creeping, bright green, leafy, rhizomatous sedge forming large, turfy patches. **Rhizome** c. 0.5 mm. diameter. **Culms** 10.0–80.0 × c. 0.5 mm, bright green above, red-brown towards the base, rigid. **Leaves** up to 6 per culm, usually > culms, c. 0.5 mm wide, or often setaceous and filiform, coriaceous, curved; sheaths with truncate orifice, pale brown and membranous, often streaked with red, rarely entirely dark red-purple. **Inflorescence** apparently lateral, of 1–2 narrow-oblong spikelets, 1.0–4.0 × 0.5–2 mm, partly hidden by the enlarged base of a subtending bract up to 5 times length of spikelet. **Glumes** 1.5–2.5 mm long, lanceolate, acute, caducous, green to pale grey-brown with reddish marks or deep red-purple, margins tapered and often pinched in at the tip below the green, thickened, ± excurrent keel. **Hypogynous bristles** 0. **Stamens** 3. **Style-branches** 3. **Nut** 1–2 mm long, slightly > 0.5 mm wide, almost = glume, elliptical, ± trigonous with rounded angles, almost white to yellowish, or grey- to red-brown, smooth and shining but very finely reticulate, tapering towards the apiculate black tip.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Isolepis aucklandica* is easily distinguished by its bright green colour; leaves mostly > culms; 3 stamens per glume (rarely 1–2 in upper portion of spikelet); by the glume-margins and nut tapering toward the tip; and by the cream nut.

## FLOWERING

October–December

## FRUITING

November–May

## LIFE CYCLE

Nuts are dispersed by water and possibly granivory and attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants. Requires a permanently moist, acidic soil to flourish. Best grown in partial to full shade.

## ETYMOLOGY

**isolepis**: From the Greek isos (equal) and lepis (scale)

**aucklandica**: Of the Auckland Islands

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson AT, Smith HA. 1986. Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning. Landsman Bookshop Ltd, Buckenhill, UK.

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.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/isolepis-aucklandica/>