

Isolepis pottsii

SYNONYMS

Scirpus pottsii Cook

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Isolepis pottsii (V.J.Cook) Soják

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

ISOPOT

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Chatham Islands.

HABITAT

A plant of boggy ground. In the northern part of its range virtually restricted to upland (> 500 m a.s.l.) cloud forest, subalpine scrub and the fringes of bogs. Descending to lower altitudes in the southern North Island, and South Islands, where it may be found on river banks, or in seepages within lowland forest. On the Chathams it has been collected from restiad bog.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

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



Herbarium specimen: AK 50359. Photographed with permission of Auckland Institute and Museum. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe, photographed with permission of Auckland Institute and Museum.



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FEATURES

Tufts leafy from an ascending rhizome c. 1 mm. diameter. Culms 60.0-400.0 mm × c.0.5 mm. Leaves 1-4, usually < culms, c.0.5 mm wide, linear, concavo-convex, sheath membranous with red-purple nerves, orifice truncate. Inflorescence apparently lateral, of (1-)-4(-6) spikelets; subtending bract 10-40 mm long. Spikelets 2.5-4.0 × 1.5-2.0 mm, ovoid or elliptical. Glumes c.1.5 mm. long, lanceolate, acute, dark red, almost black, or pale cream with red markings, keel green, strongly developed, excurrent. Hypogynous bristles 0. Stamens 1(-3). Style-branches 2, or 3. Nut c. 1 mm. long, slightly > 0.5 mm, diameter, biconvex, rarely trigonous, elliptical, distinctly mucronate, dull yellow to yellow-brown, with minutely reticulate but glossy surface.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with *Isolepis distigmata* (C.B.Clarke) Edgar from which it differs in its often strictly erect but more gracile growth habit, by having true leaves, much finer culms and leaves, fewer spikelets and 2-3 style-branches

FLOWERING

November - December

FRUITING

December - April

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in a damp site, or within a pot, from fresh seed and by the division of whole plants. However, tends to be short-lived and is probably only of interest to native plant specialists.

THREATS

Not Threatened but not that common either. Probably best regarded as biologically sparse.

ETYMOLOGY

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

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A (1986). *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning*. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

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

MORE INFORMATION

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