

Isolepis pottsii

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Data Deficient

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufts leafy from an ascending rhizome c. 1 mm. diameter. **Culms** 60–400 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.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, South Island 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 elevations 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.

THREATS

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

GENUS

Isolepis

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

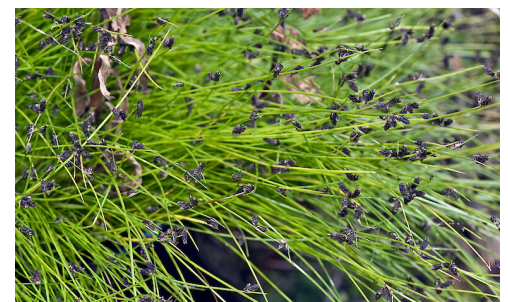
Isolepis pottsii (V.J.Cook) Soják

SYNONYMS

Scirpus pottsii Cook



Waiohine Gorge, Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 08/12/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Mount Ruapehu. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November–December

FRUITING

December–April

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

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

ETYMOLOGY

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

NVS CODE

ISOPOT

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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