

Juncus antarcticus

COMMON NAME

dwarf rush

SYNONYMS

Juncus pauciflorus Kirk; *Juncus brevifolius* Kirk

FAMILY

Juncaceae

AUTHORITY

Juncus antarcticus Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

NVS CODE

JUNANT

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Auckland and Campbell Islands. From the Central Volcanic Plateau south. Present in Australia.

HABITAT

A local species of wetlands, bogs, mires and muddy ground. Primarily subalpine to alpine in the northern part of its range but descends to sea level around Otago, and on the Subantarctic Islands.

FEATURES

Bright green tufted perennial. Stems 20-120 mm long, 1 mm diameter at base, tapering above. Leaves numerous, all basal, equal to or < stems, bright green, 15-70 x 1 mm, lamina linear-subulate, solid, non-septate, canaliculate above, usually subterete to terete near the obtuse apex, otherwise flattened; sheath broad, without auricles. Inflorescence a single (rarely double), terminal 2-10-flowered, globose head, 3-10 mm wide, if double then the lower head is the smaller of the pair. Flowers c. 3mm long; tepals more or less equal, usually dark brown to almost black, very rarely light brown. Stamens 3(-6). Capsule almost equal to tepals, ovoid to oblong, black, lustrous, especially toward the acute apex, mucro short and blunt-ended.



Ruahine range, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Arthurs Pass.

SIMILAR TAXA

Mostly montane to alpine on the main islands of New Zealand this species is not easily confused with other indigenous or exotic *Juncus* spp. The small stature, and usually single, globose flower head places this species close to *J. dreganus* Kunth, *J. lomatophyllus* Spreng., *J. caespiticius* E. Meyer and *J. capitatus* Weigel species from which it differs by the channelled leaves, except for *J. caespiticius* which is much larger and usually coastal and *J. capitatus* which differs by the usually reddish tepals 4-5 mm long, » capsules in length.

FLOWERING

October - January

FRUITING

October - May

LIFE CYCLE

Mucilaginous seeds are dispersed by attachment, wind and water (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy in a pot but prefers a damp soil and dislikes humidity.

ETYMOLOGY

juncus: From the Latin jungere 'to tie or bind', the stems of some species being used to make cord (Johnson and Smith)

antarcticus: Antarctic

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (1 September 2006). Description based on Moore & 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. I*. 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

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/juncus-antarcticus/>