

Juncus articulatus

COMMON NAME

jointed rush

FAMILY

Juncaceae

AUTHORITY

Juncus articulatus L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

NVS CODE

JUNART

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Sprawling leafy rush to 80 cm tall, leaves round with internal cross walls (feels like clicks if you hold base of leaf between finger and thumb and slide up), plant with branched flowerheads made up of many small clusters of 4 to 8 dark purple to black flowers/capsules (fruit).

DISTRIBUTION

Widespread and common throughout.

HABITAT

Margins of flowing and still water bodies, drains and wet pasture, sometimes submerged or floating.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Extremely variable perennial rush, 6-60 cm tall, dark green, usually reddish-tinged, loosely or densely tufted or forming open colonies. Stems round, rarely erect, usually flatter or prostrate and rooting at nodes, occ floating. Rhizomes usually short, occ long and forming mats. Leaves mostly along the stems, 5-20 cm long, round or compressed, with distinct hollow compartments separated by partitions (joints) usually visible externally and obvious to touch. Seedhead a loose panicle, terminal, 1-15 cm long, with many branches and clusters of small dark brown flowers. Seed capsules 2-4 mm long, triangular, glossy, dark brown to black.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to other tubular septate leaved rushes, but is often sprawling or ascending rather than upright, with acute-tipped dark brown to black capsules longer than the tepals.

FLOWERING

Summer

FLOWER COLOURS

Black, Brown



Juncus articulatus. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Close up of *Juncus articulatus*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FRUITING

Autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Seed dispersed by animals, water or contaminated machinery.

YEAR NATURALISED

1864

ORIGIN

Eurasia, North Africa and North America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, seed or soil contaminant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Rarely controlled, but can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

ETYMOLOGY

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

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

Subgenus *Juncus*, Section *Ozophyllum* (Septati) Kirschner (2002: Juncaceae 2)

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Healy, A.J.; Edgar, E. (1980). *Flora of New Zealand, Volume III. Adventive Cyperaceous, Petalous and Spathaceous Monocotyledons*. Government Printer, Wellington. 220pp.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). *Wetland plants in New Zealand*. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

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

Champion et al (2012). *Freshwater Pests of New Zealand*. NIWA publication.

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Kirschner, J. (compiler) (2002). Juncaceae 2: *Juncus* subg. *Juncus*, *Species Plantarum: Flora of the World Part 7*: 1-336.

Healy, A.J. (1982). *Identification of weeds and clovers*. New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Society Publication. Editorial Services Limited, Featherston. 299pp.

MORE INFORMATION

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