

# Juncus articulatus

## COMMON NAMES

jointed rush

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

## SIMPLIFIED 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).

## FLOWER COLOURS

Black, Brown

## 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.

## DISTRIBUTION

Widespread and common throughout.

## HABITAT

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

## GENUS

Juncus

## FAMILY

Juncaceae

## AUTHORITY

Juncus articulatus L.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

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



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



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

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

Summer

## FRUITING

Autumn

## 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.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seed dispersed by animals, water or contaminated machinery.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

**This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord.** The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

## NVS CODE

JUNART

## 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.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-fact-sheets/freshwater-pest-species>

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.

## ATTRIBUTION

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

**MORE INFORMATION**

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

**PDF DATE**

08 June 2026