

Juncus conglomeratus

COMMON NAME

soft rush

SYNONYMS

Agathryon conglomeratum (L.) Záveská Drábková & Pročków

FAMILY

Juncaceae

AUTHORITY

Juncus conglomeratus L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

NVS CODE

JUNCON

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Upright clump-forming leafless rush to 80 cm tall, with tall cylindrical stems, with tightly clustered spherical flowerheads near the end of each stem, made up of many red-brown flowers/capsules (fruit).

DISTRIBUTION

Tasman to Southland.

HABITAT

Lake margins, roadside drains and wet pasture.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect clumps; rhizomes short. **Stems** 30–80 cm × 1.5–3 mm, soft and easily split, grey-green, dull, prominently ridged especially just below inflorescence, pith continuous, cobwebby. **Basal sheaths** brownish-red, not shining. **Inflorescence** a ± spherical head c. 1 cm long, base of subtending floral bract conspicuously red-tinged and expanded to a wide opening through which inflorescence emerges. **Flowers** very crowded. **Tepals** 2–2.5 mm long, ± equal, acuminate. **Stamens** 3. **Capsule** c. 2 mm long, ± = tepals, ovoid-oblong, flattened at top, reddish-brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to other tall leafless rushes, but has a dense single flower cluster, with an expanded floral bract behind it and conspicuous ridges on the stem beneath the inflorescence.

FLOWERING

Spring to early summer

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown



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



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

FRUITING

Summer to autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Seed dispersed by animals, water or contaminated machinery.

YEAR NATURALISED

1930

ORIGIN

Europe, Western Asia Northwestern Africa and North America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, seed or soil contaminant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

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 *Agathyrion*, Section *Juncotypus* (Genuini) Kirschner (2002: Juncaceae 3)
Proćków et al. (2023) proposed a taxonomic segregation of *Juncus* into six genera based on molecular and morphological evidence. Whilst it has long been recognised that the current circumscription of *Juncus* includes morphologically divergent taxa—reflected in the recognition of numerous subgenera and sections—the consensus view of the NZPCN website taxonomy subcommittee, taking into consideration advice from Australian *Juncus* expert Dr Karen Wilson (NSW Herbarium) and others in Europe is that the generic segregations proposed need further consideration and testing. Accordingly, it has been decided to maintain the current broad circumscription of *Juncus*, but to include all new names as synonyms in factsheets. We thank, in particular, Dr Wilson for her helpful comments.

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Feature description from Healy and Edgar (1980).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- 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>
- Healy, A. J. 1982. Identification of weeds and clovers. New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Society Publication. Editorial Services Limited, Featherston. 299 p.
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- Johnson P. N., Brooke P. A. 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.
- Kirschner, J. (compiler) 2002. Juncaceae 3: *Juncus* subg. *Agathyrion*, Species Plantarum: Flora of the World Part 8: 1–192.
- Proćków, J., Záveská Drábková, L. 2023. A revision of the Juncaceae with delimitation of six new genera: nomenclatural changes in *Juncus*. *Phytotaxa* 622(1): 17–41.

MORE INFORMATION

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