

Juncus gerardii

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Sward forming rush with black rhizomes and erect tufts of dull green leaves, to 20 cm long and 1 mm wide. **Leaves** stiff and wiry with small, rounded auricles. **Stems** 40–80 cm tall. **Flowers** spread out on open fan-shaped branchlets; 3–4 mm long with dark tepals; hooded at tip.

Capsules light brown, broad, about equal to tepals.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished by the large patches formed in salt marshes, and the far-reaching black rhizomes, and dark brown to black, blunt-tipped tepals

HABITAT

Aquatic: Emergent.

GENUS

Juncus

FAMILY

Juncaceae

AUTHORITY

Juncus gerardii Loisel.

SYNONYMS

Agathryon gerardii (Loisel.) Záveská Drábková & Pročków

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Pročków 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.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No



Juncus gerardii. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



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YEAR NATURALISED

1891

ORIGIN

Europe, Asia, N. Africa, N. America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidental

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)

NVS CODE

JUNGRD

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.

Pročków, 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-gerardii/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026