

Juncus microcephalus

COMMON NAMES

South American rush

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Upright leafy rush to 90 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 heads of 4 to 10 reddish brown flowers/capsules (fruit).

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Loosely or densely tufted perennial, bronze or occasionally red-purple at base. Stems 15-90 cm high, without internal transverse septa below inflorescence. Leaves terete or \pm compressed, transversely-septate with septa usually evident externally. Inflorescence 6-24 cm long, very variable, open, much-branched, with 3-8-flowered clusters at ends of branches. Tepals 3-3.5 mm long, all \pm equal, broad, acute. Stamens 6. Capsule 2.5-3.5 mm long, $<$ to \pm = tepals, broad, depressed at top, minutely mucronate, reddish-brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to other tubular septate leaved rushes, but is taller and stouter than most other species (except *J. acutiflorus*) and has flat topped capsules with a mucronate tip.

DISTRIBUTION

Common throughout the North Island and northern South Island, usually lowland.

HABITAT

Aquatic: Emergent.

GENUS

Juncus

FAMILY

Juncaceae

AUTHORITY

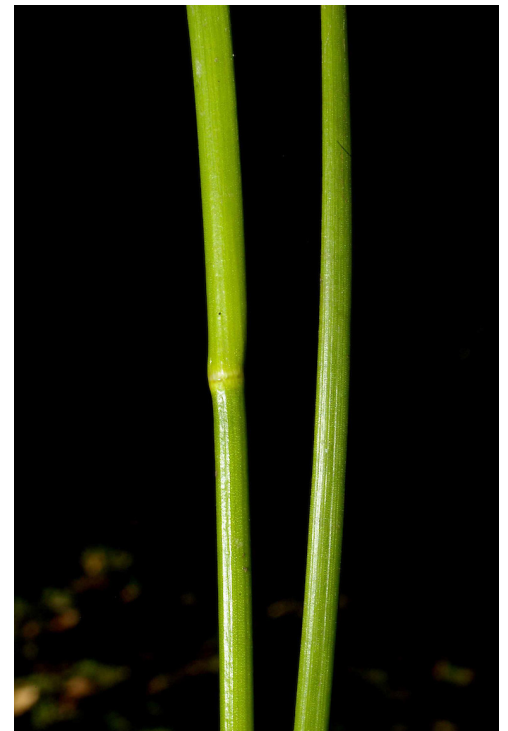
Juncus microcephalus Kunth

TAXONOMIC NOTES

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



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



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ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Spring to early summer

FRUITING

Summer to autumn

YEAR NATURALISED

1790

ORIGIN

South America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, seed or soil contaminant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

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)

NVS CODE

JUNMIC

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

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

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

ATTRIBUTION

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

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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