

Juncus scheuchzerioides

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Green

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Densely tufted, dark green, red green or bright green perennial. **Stems** 20–200 × 0.2–0.5 mm. erect, densely branched from base, often creeping. **Basal nodes** sending out fibrous roots. **Leaves** numerous, basal and cauline, 10–200 × 0.5–1.0 mm, » stems, herbaceous, narrow-linear, compressed, transversely septate, pale green, red green or bright green, leaf apex acute; sheath long, membranous, bearing two obtuse auricles. **Inflorescence** a simple compact head of 2–8 flowers, very rarely producing a second head. **Flowers** 4 mm long, tepals more or less equal, the outer acuminate, the inner ovate-oblong, obtuse or shortly acuminate, light green or light brown. **Stamens** 6, more or less equal in length to tepals. **Capsules** < or > tepals, ovoid, shortly mucronate, light brown or red-brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Could be confused with *J. pusillus* Buch. which also grows on the Auckland Islands with *J. scheuchzerioides*. *Juncus pusillus* differs in terete rather than compressed leaves; flowers 1.5–3.0 mm rather than c. 4 mm long; and leaves which are < rather than > 0.5 mm long. It is usually a dark brown or red-brown rather than pale green, red-green to to bright green colour.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Antipodes Islands, Auckland Islands, Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku. Also Macquarie Island, Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, Marion Island, Crozet Island and Kerguelen Island. Present in South America.

HABITAT

Sea level to 300 m a.s.l. Usually in or near running water or in open peaty turf.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon species, common within its limited geographic range.

GENUS

Juncus

FAMILY

Juncaceae

AUTHORITY

Juncus scheuchzerioides Gaudich.



Juncus scheuchzerioides growing on slip faces in North harbour, Auckland Island, January 2023. Photographer: Alex Fergus, Date taken: 13/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Macquarie Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 13/01/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SYNONYMS

Juncus inconspicuus D Urv., *J. scheuchzerioides* var. *inconspicuus* (D Urv.) Hook.f., *Verojuncus scheuchzerioides* (Gaudich.) Závěská 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 TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December–April

FRUITING

February–July

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Mucilaginous seeds are dispersed by attachment, wind and water (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Not known from cultivation

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely 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

JUNSCH

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, SO

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, SO

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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.
- Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.
- 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.
- Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (1 September 2006). Description based on Moore & Edgar (1970). Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

MORE INFORMATION

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

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