

Juncus tenuis subsp. tenuis

COMMON NAME

track rush

SYNONYMS

Agathryon tenue (Willd.) Záveská Drábková & Pročków

FAMILY

Juncaceae

AUTHORITY

Juncus tenuis Willd. subsp. tenuis

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Roots fibrous, tufted. **Stem** 15–60 cm tall, slender, round, hollow, wiry, dark green, branching at the top, not jointed. **Leaves** very narrow, glass-like, mostly at the base of the stems. **Flowers** small, greenish-brown, with 6 scale-like bracts surrounding the seed pod; borne in clusters of 3 at the tips of the stems. **Seed pod** nearly egg-shaped, brown, splitting into three sections when mature (Wax et al. 1981).

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Green

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds brown, small about 3mm long, with minute crossline markings (Wax et al. 1981).

YEAR NATURALISED

1922

ORIGIN

N. and S. America

ETYMOLOGY

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



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



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

TAXONOMIC NOTES

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.

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.
- 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.
- Wax, L. M.; Fawcett, R. S.; Isely, D. (eds). 1981. Weeds of the North Central States. North Central Research Publication no. 281. *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Bulletin* 772.

MORE INFORMATION

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