Juncus tenuis subsp. tenuis

COMMON NAMES
track rush

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Rushes & Allied Plants

FLOWER COLOURS
Brown, Green

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).

GENUS
Juncus

FAMILY
Juncaceae

AUTHORITY
Juncus tenuis Willd. subsp. tenuis

SYNONYMS
Agathryon tenue (Willd.) Záveská Drábková & Proćków

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.

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

YEAR NATURALISED
1922



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ORIGIN
N. and S. America

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

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FACU: Facultative Upland
Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs 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
JUNTST

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/

PDF DATE
25 May 2026