

# Koeleria cheesemanii

## SYNONYMS

*Trisetum cheesemanii* Hack., *Koeleria novozelandica* var. *pubiculmis* Domin.

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Koeleria cheesemanii* (Hack.) Petrie

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

KOECHE

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island—uncommon, known from Mt Hikurangi, the Kaweka and north-east Ruahine Range. In the South Island abundant throughout the mian mountain ranges.

## HABITAT

Rocky outcrops, scree, cliff faces from 1000–2800 m. Often found growing with *Trisetum spicatum* (L.) K.Richt.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to the grasses of New Zealand](#)

## LIFE CYCLE

Florets are dispersed by wind and possibly attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and division of plants. Will not tolerate high humidity, needing a cool, airy place, in well drained, damp soil. Best in an Alpine house. Will not flower at low elevations unless subjected to “cold treatment” for 1–2 months.



In scree with *Rytidosperma setifolia*, Lake Ohau Canterbury. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 22/01/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Ōhau Range, Canterbury. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 22/01/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## ETYMOLOGY

**koeleria:** Named after George Ludwig Koeler (1765-1807), 18th century German botanist. Author of a work on the grasses of Germany and France, *Descriptio graminum in Gallia et Germania* (1802).

**cheesemanii:** Named after Thomas Frederick Cheeseman (1846 - 15 October 1923) who was a New Zealand botanist and naturalist who, in 1906, produced *The Manual of the New Zealand Flora*.

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## TAXANOMIC NOTES

New Zealand *Koeleria* are probably better placed in *Trisetum*.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/koeleria-cheesemanii/>