

Koeleria riguorum

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Data Deficient

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)



CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender perennial grass 25–(36) cm tall with fine rhizomes. **Leaves** often reddish-purple with the erect, mature panicles well overtopping leaves. **Leaf-sheath** strongly ribbed, finely hairy between ribs, pale straw to purple-suffused. **Ligule** 0.6–1.1 mm, truncate to subacute, finely hairy. **Leaf-blade** 3.2–9.5–(17) cm × 0.3–1.2 mm, usually folded, rolled, or flat, linear filiform, hairless (rarely finely hairy), strongly ribbed, margin finely scabrid. **Panicle** 2–5–(7) × 0.3–1 cm, spike-like. **Spikelets** (3.6)–4.2–(6.5) mm, 2–(3)-flowered bright green, banded with purple and golden-brown. **Glumes** subequal, lanceolate to elliptic-ovate, acute or obtuse, lower 3.5–4 mm, 1–3-nerved, keel scabrid in upper ⅓; upper glume 4–4.2 mm 3–5–(7)-nerved. **Seed** c. 2 × 0.7 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *K. novozelandica* but differing from that species by the longer slender rhizomes, leaf-blades diverging at an angle of 30 degrees, reddish leaves and culms, and by the conspicuously purplish and golden-brown colour banding in the spikelets. It is also unusual in being the only indigenous *Koeleria* to prefer wetland habitats.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South island (scattered sites from North-west Nelson to northern Canterbury). Probably more widespread than this as it is easily overlooked.

HABITAT

An alpine to subalpine species of sedge-dominated wetlands.

THREATS

Described in 1999. *Koeleria riguorum* is probably not threatened but there are very few recent (>1980) collections. Therefore until detailed surveys state otherwise it has been rated as Data Deficient simply as a precautionary measure.

GENUS

Koeleria

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Koeleria riguorum Edgar et Gibb

SYNONYMS

None

TAXONOMIC NOTES

New Zealand *Koeleria* might be better placed in *Trisetum*.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

No information available

FRUITING

No information available

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown by division but hard to maintain. Dislikes warm, humid climates. Should be easy from fresh seed.

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).

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to the grasses of New Zealand

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 28$

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Data Deficient

2004 | Data Deficient

Jump to current conservation status

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. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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