

Machaerina arthropphylla

SYNONYMS

Baumea huttonii (Kirk) Blake; Baumea arthropphylla (Nees) Boeck.

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Machaerina arthropphylla (Nees) Koyama

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

MACART

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North (Waikato south to Waiouru), South (D'urville Island, Westland, Southland), and Chatham Island. Also in Australia.

HABITAT

Coastal to subalpine (up to 1200 m a.s.l.) in freshwater wetlands, especially on the margins of lakes, tarns and slow-flowing streams; also within burn pools in restiad bogs, and in low moor, acidic wetlands.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dark green, rhizomatous sedge. **Rhizome** c. 3 mm diameter, horizontal, shortly creeping, hard, lignaceous, covered with very loose bracts. **Culms** 0.5–1.3 m tall, 1–2 mm diameter, terete. **Leaves**: lowermost reduced to sheathing bracts, light brown; upper leaves 1–3, terete like the stems, internally septate, tips acute. **Inflorescence** a panicle, 100–400 mm long, rounded at the tip, interrupted, branchlets drooping, in distant fascicles, the lowermost often remote, the stoutest lateral branchlet arising from lowest spathaceous bract < 1 mm diameter, usually only c. 0.5 mm diameter; bracts large, membranous, acuminate, spathaceous, light greenish brown. **Spikelets**, 3.0–4.5 mm long, approximate and rather evenly distributed along the branchlets, brown, 2–4-flowered, usually only 2 lowest flowers fertile. **Glumes** 4–7, ovate, acute, or acuminate, membranous, pale brown below, red towards the apex and scabrid; margins ciliate. **Nut** 2.0–2.5 × c. 1 mm, oblong, trigonous, smooth, whitish, beak small.

SIMILAR TAXA

Machaerina arthropphylla is recognised by the terete, dark green, internally septate leaves; red-brown inflorescences which are rounded at the apices, and whose branches are arranged in distant fascicles (and whose stoutest lateral branchlet of inflorescence arises from the lower most spathaceous bract).

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

December–May

LIFE CYCLE

Nuts are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Can be grown from fresh seed but slow to establish. Resents root disturbance.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (8 September 2006). Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.
- Wilcox M. 2002. *Baumea arthropphylla* at Mahurangi. *Auckland Botanical Society* 57: 51.
- 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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/machaerina-arthropphylla/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/machaerina-arthrophylla/>



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