

# Machaerina rubiginosa

## COMMON NAME

baumea

## SYNONYMS

*Fuirena rubiginosa* Spreng.; *Cladium globeratum* R.Br.; *Cladium rubiginosum* (Spreng.) Domin; *Baumea rubiginosa* (Spreng.) Boeck.

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Machaerina rubiginosa* (Spreng.) Koyama

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

MACRUB

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

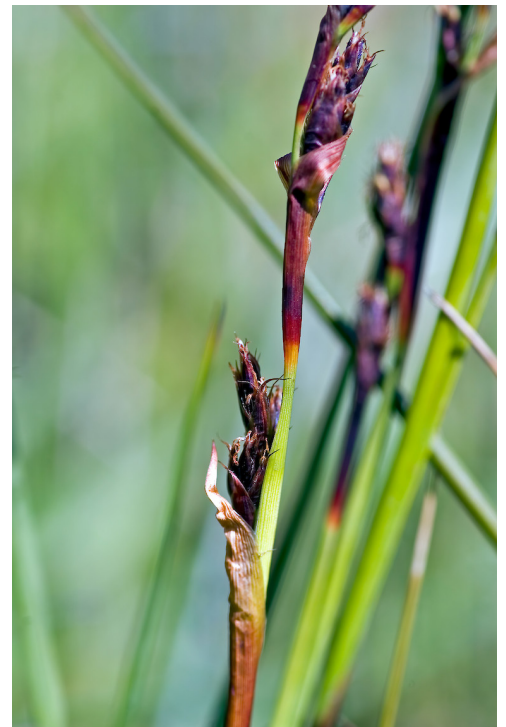
Indigenous. New Zealand: North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands.  
Also New Guinea, New Caledonia and Australia

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane (up to 900 m a.s.l.) in most freshwater wetlands; especially favouring low moor peat bogs, the margins of restiad bogs and their burn pools, more rarely on the margins of lakes, tarns and slow-flowing streams where it may grow with *Machaerina arthropphylla*.



Cape Terawhiti. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Cape Terawhiti. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

## FEATURES

Glaucous to bright-green, rhizomatous sedge. Rhizome 2–4 mm diameter, horizontal, shortly creeping, wiry, fibrous, covered with a loose coat of closely imbricating papery scales. Culms 0.3–1.2 m tall, 1.0–2.5 mm, terete, soft, light blue-green, darkly glaucous or bright-green. Lower leaves reduced to grey-brown, membranous, mucronate sheaths; upper leaves 1–3, terete like the culms, < or ± = culms, internally septate, tips subulate, acute. Inflorescence a panicle, 60–350 mm long, rounded at the tip, interrupted, with branchlets in distant fascicles, stoutest lateral branchlet arising from lowest spathaceous bract c.1 mm diameter; bracts subtending upper fascicles acuminate, membranous, red-brown. Spikelets 4.5–6.0 mm long, clustered, red-brown, 2–4-flowered, 1 or occasionally 2 flowers fertile. Glumes 4–5, ovate, acuminate, membranous, streaked with red, margins ciliate, scabrid towards the tip and on the keel. Nut 3.0–4.0 x c.1.5 mm, elliptic-oblong, pale- or orange-yellow, smooth, trigonous while immature; beak small, grey or black, acute, trigonous, puberulous.

## FLOWERING

October - December

## FRUITING

Throughout the year

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of whole plants - though plants may take some time to settle. Although it prefers an acidic, permanently damp soil, plants can be grown in free draining soils and once established will tolerate dry spells reasonably well.

## ETYMOLOGY

**rubiginosa**: Rust-coloured

## 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, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.  
Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

## CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Machaerina rubiginosa* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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