

Machaerina teretifolia

SYNONYMS

Cladium teretifolium R.Br.; *Baumea teretifolia* (R.Br.) Palla

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Machaerina teretifolia (R.Br.) Koyama

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

MACTER

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Swarming to densely tufted sedge dark green to yellow green rush-like sedge bearing dense paniculate inflorescences, each spikelet bearing an oblong-obovoid, white or pale brown, deeply corrugated nut

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North and South Islands - common in the northern half of the North Island, then less so though locally common around Wellington. In the South Island common in Nelson and Westland. Also Australia and New Guinea.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane (up to 900 m a.s.l.) mostly in moderately acid to extremely acidic peat bogs, (especially low moor bogs and restiad bogs), also in gum land and pakihi. Less commonly found growing along the margins of peat lakes slow-flowing streams draining peat bogs, or along drainage ditches.



Otaki. Apr 2007. Photographer: Robyn Smith



Hauraki swamp, February. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

FEATURES

Plants rhizomatous, variable, either densely tufted, caespitose, or covering large tracts of ground with distant culms. Rhizome 2–4 mm diameter, fibrous and flexuous, usually widely creeping, all parts invested with closely imbricate, grey papery bracts. Culms 0.3–1.1 m tall, 1.5–4.0 mm, terete or slightly compressed, striate, yellow-green. Lowermost leaves reduced to sheathing bracts, pinkish brown, rarely dark grey, mucronate; upper leaves 1–3, < or ± = to culms, terete like the culms except towards the subulate, pungent tip, internally septate, sheath loose. Panicle 40–180 mm long, stiff, erect, narrowed and pointed towards the tip like a spear-head, with numerous closely packed branchlets; sheaths subtending panicle and branchlets short, membranous, pale brown, striate. Spikelets 3–5 mm long, fascicled, close-set, dark brown to almost black, 1(-2)-flowered, if so then with only 1 flower fertile. Glumes 4–5, ovate, acuminate to mucronate, almost awned, dark brown, smooth or slightly scabrid at the back, margins ± ciliate. Nut 1.5–2.0 × c. 1 mm, oblong-obovoid, white or pale brown, surface deeply and ± vertically corrugated; style-base very small, hardly distinct, smooth.

SIMILAR TAXA

Machaerina teretifolia is recognised by dark green to yellow-green, terete, internally septate leaves; dark brown to almost black, narrowed and pointed, dense paniculate inflorescences, with more or less approximate branches; and an oblong-obovoid, white or pale brown, deeply corrugated nut.

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. Plants also flourish in pots and do well when planted in a medium comprising mostly untreated pine sawdust.

ETYMOLOGY

teretifolia: From the Latin *teres* 'rounded' and *folium* 'leaf', meaning terete-shaped leaf. Terete is the opposite to angular and is used in contradistinction when speaking of long bodies, such as stems or leaves.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (23 March 2012). 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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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