**Netrostylis capillaris**

**SYNONYMS**
Chaetospora capillacea Hook.f.; Chaetospora capillaris F.Muell.; Cladium capillaceum (Hook.f.)C.B.Clarke; Machaerina capillacea (Hook.f.) Koyama; Tetraria capillaris (F.Muell.) J.M.Black

**FAMILY**
Cyperaceae

**AUTHORITY**
Netrostylis capillaris (F.Muell.) R.L.Barrett, J.J.Bruhl et K.L.Wilson

**FLORA CATEGORY**
Vascular – Native

**ENDEMIC TAXON**
No

**ENDEMIC GENUS**
No

**ENDEMIC FAMILY**
No

**STRUCTURAL CLASS**
Sedges

**NVS CODE**
TETCAP

**CHROMOSOME NUMBER**
2n = 20

**CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS**
2012 | Not Threatened

**PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES**
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened

**DISTRIBUTION**
Indigenous. Australia and New Zealand. In New Zealand present in the North Island from Te Paki south to about Taranaki and Hawkes Bay, and in the South Island recorded from the Nelson area and Westland.

**HABITAT**
Coastal to montane. Usually in seral vegetation within swamps, peat bogs, pakihi, gumland scrub, on sand podzols, in dune slacks or in open ground within regenerating kauri (Agathis australis) forest. Sometimes found fringing burn pools in peat bogs.
FEATURES
Tufted, tussock forming, rather gracile perennial herb. Rhizome short and lignaceous, up to 1 mm diameter, covered within membranous, red or pale brown, imbricate bracts. Culms 0.15-1.20 m tall, 0.5 mm diameter, glossy bright green to yellow-green, rather slender, wiry. Basal leaves reduced to red, mucronate, sheathing bracts; the uppermost up to 150 mm long, with a very slender mucro-like lamina, up to 5 mm long. Panicle 15-30 mm long, composed of 2-8 usually stalked spikelets; subtending bracts with a long lamina > spikelets. Spikelets c.5 mm long, narrow, dark brown or reddish, (1-)2-flowered. Glumes distichous, lanceolate, acuminate, with white membranous margins, the upper 1-2 pubescent towards the apex, the others glabrous, the lower 3-4 and the upper 1-2 empty. Hypogynous bristles 0. Stamens 3. Style-branches 3. Nut 1.5 x 1-1.2 mm, ellipsoid or oblong-ovoid, light brown with 3 white ribs, surface smooth, crowned by a pubescent, persistent style-base, as long as the nut but much narrower throughout.

SIMILAR TAXA
Most likely to be confused with Schoenus carsei Cheeseman from which it is best distinguished by the absence of hypogynous bristles (usually 3 rarely absent in S. carsei), and smaller (1.5 x 1.2 mm cf. 2 x 1 mm) light brown nut bearing three prominent white ribs otherwise smooth, and crowned by a pubescent, persistent style base of equal length to the nut. In Schoenus carsei the nut is uniformly white and smooth, and completely lacking a persistent style-base. Schoenus carsei and Netrostylis have been found growing together.

FLOWERING
October - March

FRUITING
January - June (but fruits may be present throughout the year)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of whole plants, although as with many cyperaceous plants, specimens resent root disturbance and can take some time to recover from transplanting. Best grown in full sun on a poorly draining clay soil.

ETYMOLOGY
capillaris: From the Latin capillus 'hair' or 'thread', meaning hair-like or thread-like

WHERE TO BUY
Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION
Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

CITATION
Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Netrostylis capillaris Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/netrostylis-capillaris/ (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION