

# Poa antipoda

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Soft, ± drooping, light green stoloniferous perennial tufts, c. 20-600 mm rooting at nodes; branching extravaginal; leaf-blades persistent. **Leaf-sheath** light green to light brown, submembranous, distinctly ribbed, glabrous. **Ligule** 1.0–4.5 mm, entire, apically glabrous, gradually narrowed and subacute, abaxially slightly scabrid. **Leaf-blade** 75.–250 × 2–4.5 mm, flat, soft, smooth almost throughout but minutely scabrid abaxially near straight-sided narrow acute tip and adaxially just above ligule. **Culm** 80–500 mm, internodes glabrous. **Panicle** 50–15- mm, ± lax and usually open with spreading branches; rachis usually ± smooth, branches ± smooth to sparsely scabrid. **Spikelets** 4–6 mm, 2-4-flowered, brownish green. **Glumes** ± unequal, narrow-lanceolate, acute to acuminate, glabrous, apart from a few prickly-teeth on midrib in upper ½; lower 1.5–3.0 mm, 1-nerved, upper 2.0–3.5 mm, 3-nerved. **Lemma** 2.5–5.0 mm, 3–5-nerved, ± elliptic, acute, with long hairs on lower ½ of midnerve and at base of lateral nerves and fine prickly-teeth on midnerve above, internerves glabrous or sometimes slightly scabrid near tip. **Palea** 2–4 mm, keels shortly ciliate-scabrid, interkeel glabrous. **Callus** with narrow tuft of long fine hairs. **Rachilla** 0.5 mm, glabrous; prolongation twice as long. **Lodicules** 0.4–0.5 mm. **Anthers** 0.5–1 mm. **Seeds** not seen.

## DISTRIBUTION

.Endemic. New Zealand: Stewart Island/Rakiura (Herekopere Island), Antipodes Islands, Auckland Island, and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

## HABITAT

Coastal on cliffs and rock outcrops; inland on damp banks, and in herbfield.

## THREATS

Not threatened. Listed because it is a narrow range endemic which is naturally uncommon throughout its known range.

## GENUS

Poa

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Poa antipoda* Petrie

## SYNONYMS

None

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October–November

## FRUITING

Seed not yet seen.

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult in warmer climates. Rather slow growing.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for May 2020](#) for the full story.

## ETYMOLOGY

**poa**: Meadow grass

**antipoda**: Named after the Antipodes i.e. Australia or New Zealand which are on the opposite side of the world from Europe

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to the grasses of New Zealand](#)

## NVS CODE

POAANT

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 28$

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Manaaki Whenua Press, Christchurch, NZ. 650 p.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/poa-antipoda/>

## PDF DATE

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