

Poa aucklandica subsp. aucklandica

COMMON NAMES

Auckland Island poa

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, IE, OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, dull green, slenderly laxly tufted rhizomatous perennial with narrow, ± erect leaves, ± reaching top of culms; branching extravaginal at plant base, intravaginal above; leaf-blades persistent. **Leaf-sheath** glabrous, very light green or pale brown, membranous, shredding into fibres. **Ligule** 1.0–1.3 mm long, apically glabrous, ± obtuse and slightly erose, abaxially slightly scabrid. **Leaf-blade** 40–160 × 0.5 – c. 1.5 mm, flaccid, soft, flat to folded, underside smooth, upper surface minutely ciliate-scabrid on ribs; margins and midrib smooth, tip curved. **Culm** slender, 45–300 mm long, internodes usually slightly scabrid below panicle. **Panicle** 30–80 mm long, lax, with few large spikelets borne singly at tips of filiform, finely scabrid branches. **Spikelets** 4.5–8.0 mm long, 3–5-flowered, brownish green or greenish purple. **Glumes** subequal, oblong-elliptic, acute, smooth, but occasionally scabrid on midnerve near tip; lower 3.5–5.0 mm, 3-nerved, upper 4.0–5.5 mm, 3–(5)-nerved. **Lemma** 4.0–5.5 mm, oblong-elliptic, acute; 5–7-nerved, nerves minutely scabrid with a few short hairs near base of midnerve and outer lateral nerves, internerves glabrous, often scabrid towards tip, midnerve occasionally very shortly excurrent. **Palea** 3.0–4.5 mm long, minutely closely scabrid on keels, smooth elsewhere. **Callus** with very small tuft of long crinkled hairs. **Rachilla** c. 1 mm, sparsely scabrid; prolongation to twice as long. **Lodicules** 0.5–0.7 mm. **Anthers** 0.4–0.7 mm long. **Seeds** 1.5 × 0.7 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Poa aucklandica* subsp. *campbelliensis* (Petrie) Edgar and *P. aucklandica* subsp. *rakiura* Edgar. The first subspecies is confined to the Campbell Islands and differs by its smaller tufted habit, with culms up to 100 cf. 300 mm tall in subsp. *aucklandica*, more closely packed culms, smaller ligule (up to 1.0 cf. 1.3 mm) and leaves (up to 50 mm cf. 160 mm) which are stiff and inrolled rather than flat or folded, smaller panicle (up to 50 mm cf. 80 mm), unequal rather than subequal glumes and other minor differences in the glume ornamentation, lemma, palea and anther size ranges. *Poa aucklandica* subsp. *rakiura* differs by its restriction to Mt Anglem, Stewart Island, by its slender, laxly tufted habit, taller culms (up to 500 cf. 300 mm), occasionally finely pubescent-scabrid leaf-sheath, longer leaves (up to 200 cf. 160 mm), smaller panicle up to 75 cf. 80 mm, unequal glumes, and other minor differences in the glume ornamentation, lemma, palea and anther size ranges.



Near the Tower of Babel, on the Fleming Plateau, January 24th, 2023. Taken during the 2023 Strannik Auckland Island Expedition. Photographer: Alex Fergus, Date taken: 24/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Auckland Islands.

HABITAT

.Upland herbfield and rock crevices

THREATS

Not threatened. Listed because it is a narrow range island endemic abundant within its known habitats.

GENUS

Poa

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Poa aucklandica Petrie subsp. *aucklandica*

SYNONYMS

Poa kirkii var. *aucklandica* (Petrie) Zotov

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Unknown—insufficiently studied and collected.

FRUITING

Unknown—insufficiently studied and collected.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown.

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ETYMOLOGY

poa: Meadow grass

aucklandica: Of the Auckland Islands

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, IE, OL

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

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-aucklandica-subsp-aucklandica/>

PDF DATE

08 June 2026