

Poa aucklandica subsp. rakiura

COMMON NAMES

Mt Anglem poa

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dull green, slender, laxly tufted, slenderly rhizomatous perennial with narrow, ± erect leaves, ± reaching top of culms; branching extravaginal at plant base, intravaginal above; leaf-blades persistent. **Leaf-sheath** glabrous or sometimes shortly pubescent-scabrid near margins, very light green or pale brown, membranous, shredding into fibres. **Ligule** 0.5–2.0 mm, apically glabrous, ± obtuse and slightly erose, abaxially slightly scabrid. **Leaf-blade** 40–200 × 0.5–1.5 mm, flaccid, soft, flat to folded, underside smooth, upper surface minutely ciliate-scabrid on ribs; margins and midrib entirely smooth or with finely scabrid midrib and margins, tip curved. **Culm** 150–400 mm tall, slender, internodes usually slightly scabrid below panicle. **Panicle** 40–75 mm, lax, with few large spikelets borne singly at tips of filiform, finely scabrid branches. **Spikelets** 5.5–7.5 mm, 3–5-flowered, brownish green or greenish purple. **Glumes** ± unequal, elliptic, acute; smooth, but occasionally scabrid on midnerve near tip; lower 3.0–4.5 mm, 3-nerved, upper 4–5 mm, 3–(5)-nerved. **Lemma** 3.5–4.5 mm, oblong-elliptic, obtuse, 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. **Palea** 3–4 mm, 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** 0.5–0.7 mm. **Seeds** 1.5 × 0.7 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Poa aucklandica* Petrie subsp. *aucklandica* and *P. aucklandica* subsp. *campbellensis* (Petrie) Edgar. The first subspecies is confined to the Auckland Islands and differs from subsp. *rakiura* by its smaller tufted habit, with culms up to 300 cf. 400 mm tall in subsp. *aucklandica*, occasionally finely pubescent-scabrid, rather strictly glabrous leaf-sheath, shorter ligule (up to 1.3 cf. 2.0 mm) and shorter leaves (up to 160 mm cf. 200 mm), larger panicle (up to 80 mm cf. 75 mm), subequal rather than ± unequal glumes and other minor differences in the glume ornamentation, lemma, palea and anther size ranges. *Poa aucklandica* subsp. *campbellensis* differs by its restriction to Campbell Island, it is a much smaller plant with closely packed shorter culms (up to 100 cf. 400 mm), longer leaves (up to 50 cf. 200 mm), smaller panicle up to 50 cf. 75 mm, and other minor differences in the glume ornamentation, lemma, palea and anther size ranges.



Herbarium specimen, © Allan Herbarium, Landcare Research Ltd. Photographer: Peter B. Heenan, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Stewart Island (Mt Anglem).

HABITAT

Near summit associated with *Chionochloa crassiuscula* (Kirk) Zotov subsp. *crassiuscula* grassland on rocks.

THREATS

A very localised, naturally uncommon, range restricted endemic known only from a small area near the summit of Mt Anglem. At present there is no evidence of decline but the population needs monitoring to ascertain trends. No obvious threats are evident at its sole known site which is within a Nature Reserve.

GENUS

Poa

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Poa aucklandica subsp. *rakiura* Edgar

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1986)

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

rakiura: Named after the Maori name for Stewart Island. Rakiura is derived from raki 'sky' and ura 'glowing' or 'blush'. One explanation for the name is because of the beautiful sunsets seen from the Island. Another possible explanation is the name is derived from Te Ura-Te Raki-tamou 'the blush of Te Raki Tamou, in reference to a story of the shame of a Maori chief who went to the island to court a woman and subsequently found out she had a husband.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, OL

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

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.

Reed A W. 2002. The Reed Dictionary of New Zealand Place Names. Reed Publishing. Auckland.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (June 2005). Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/poa-aucklandica-subsp-rakiura/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026