

Rytidosperma buchananii

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DPR, DPT

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

SIMILAR TAXA

The combination of short lemma lobes relative to the lemma, the very long palea which almost reaches the tip of the lemma lobes and is c. = the length of the upper lemma hairs, and the sparse rows of hairs (hairs on the callus can be thick, and the callus, lower and upper lemma hairs all overlap) distinguish this species from all other species of *Rytidosperma*. In the field its robust dark coloured spikes are most similar to *R. thomsonii*, but in that species the awn is very short hardly protrudes past the glumes (among other differences).

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (mainly in the central and southern mountains, but also present on the southern side of Kawhia Harbour and the adjacent Awaroa Valley; coastal in eastern Wairarapa), South Island (throughout the mountains).

HABITAT

Usually in rocky places or on open alluvial gravels.

GENUS

Rytidosperma

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Rytidosperma buchananii (Hook.f.) Connor et Edgar

SYNONYMS

Danthonia buchananii Hook.f., *Notodanthonia buchananii* (Hook.f.) Zotov, *Danthonia semiannularis* var. *breviseta* Hook.f.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available



Eastern Wairarapa coast (from a specimen collected by Pat Enright). Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 17/12/2009, Licence: CC BY.

ETYMOLOGY

rytidosperma: Wrinkled seed

buchananii: Named after John Buchanan (13 October 1819-1898) who was a New Zealand botanist and scientific artist and fellow of the Linnean Society.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

RYTBUC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n= 24

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Declining | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NStr, PF, Sp, TL Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025”](#) Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rytidosperma-buchananii/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026