

Rytidosperma nudum

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Diminutive, diffuse tufted grass, leafy at ends of elongating shoots, rooting at nodes; leaves somewhat acute, more or less equal to culms, dis-articulating at ligule. **Branching** intravaginal. **Leaf-sheath** pale straw-coloured to light grey, glabrous; apical tuft of hairs few, 1–2 mm long. ligule to 0.4 mm. **Leaf-blade** to 80 mm, folded, narrow, rather soft, glabrous. **Culm** to 100 mm, internodes glabrous. **Panicle** small, erect, to 30 mm, of few spikelets on short pedicels; rachis and pedicels slender, closely short-scabrid and some longer hairs at branch axils. **Spikelets** usually 3-flowered, awns barely exerted from glumes. **Glumes** purplish centrally, ovate, obtuse, more or less equal, 3.5–7.0 mm long; lower 3–5-nerved, upper 3-nerved. **Lemma** 2.3–3.5 mm, 5–9-nerved, upper and lower rows of hairs very sparse, upper row usually of small marginal tufts with a few scattered hairs, elsewhere glabrous, margins with scattered hairs; lobes 0.2–0.5 mm, acute to acuminate, not awn-tipped; central awn 1–2 mm long, erect, column scarcely evident. **Palea** 2.4–2.8 mm long, reaching base of awn, sinus, = upper lemma hairs, inter keel glabrous, margins occasionally with a few long hairs. **Callus** c. 0.3 mm long, a few marginal hairs not reaching lower lemma hairs, or marginal tufts denser, slightly overlapping lower lemma tufts. **Rachilla** 0.5–0.8 mm. **Anthers** 0.7–0.8. **Seed** not seen.

SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by the awn of the lemma 1–2 mm long, and the lemma which is 2.3–3.5 mm, 5–9-nerved, with the upper and lower rows of hairs very sparse, and the upper row usually comprised of small marginal tufts with a few scattered hairs, otherwise glabrous. The lemma margins have scattered hair and lobes 0.2–0.5 mm, which are acute to acuminate. Its relationship to the other indigenous species is not clear though it seems closest to *R. australe* and *R. pumilum*. The small, few-flowered spikelets and absence of seed are useful field characters.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Central Volcanic Plateau (Mt Ruapehu), Ruahine and Tararua Ranges.

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine in flushes and bogs.

THREATS

A very local endemic, rarely collected.

GENUS

Rytidosperma

FAMILY

Poaceae



Mount Ruapehu. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 08/02/2012, Licence: CC BY.

AUTHORITY

Rytidosperma nudum (Hook.f.) Connor et Edgar

SYNONYMS

Danthonia nuda Hook.f., *Notodanthonia nuda* (Hook.f.) Zotov

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Some botanists believe that this uncommon species is a naturally occurring, uncommon, sterile hybrid (B.P.J. Molloy pers. comm.; de Lange et al. 2009; de Lange & Rolfe 2010), especially as the seed of this species has never been seen. However, the recent (2012) discovery of this species growing in abundance in alpine flushes on Mt Ruapehu (P.J. de Lange, N.J. Singers, J.R. Rolfe & M.A.M. Renner unpubl. data), in morphologically uniform populations suggests that it is a functional species. Currently this species is listed as Taxonomically Indistinct in Appendix 3 of de Lange et al. (2009) having previously been listed as “Range Restricted” by de Lange et al. (2004). Clearly this status will need to change and as an interim measure the status of “At Risk / Naturally Uncommon” appended DP [Data Poor], RR [Range Restricted] is here suggested (P.J. de Lange unpubl. data).

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November–January

FRUITING

Not known

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Grows easily enough from the division of whole plants

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

rytidosperma: Wrinkled seed

nudum: Bare

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

RYTNUD

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- de Lange PJ, Norton DA, Heenan PB, Courtney SP, Molloy BPJ, Ogle CC, Rance BD, Johnson PN, Hitchmough R. 2004. Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 45–76.
- de Lange PJ, Norton DA, Courtney SP, Heenan PB, Barkla JW, Cameron EK, Hitchmough R, Townsend AJ. 2009. Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand (2008 revision). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 61–96.
- de Lange PJ, Rolfe JR. 2010. New Zealand Indigenous Vascular Plant Checklist. New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, Wellington. 164 p.
- Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Manaaki Whenua Press, Christchurch, NZ. 650 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 30 August 2006. Description adapted from Edgar & Connor (2000).

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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