

Schoenus concinnus

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizomatous, tufted rush-like sedge. **Rhizomes** lignaceous, up to 1.5 mm diameter, loosely covered by large, membranous, overlapping scales. **Culms** 10–250 mm long, less than 0.5 mm diameter, bright green to dark green, wiry, erect, striated, unbranched, densely tufted or widely spaced along rhizome. **Leaves** $\geq$ or $<$ culms, upper leaves alternate, rigidly setaceous, semi-terete, margins rarely scabrid towards leaf apex; basal leaves reduced to red-purple, grooved, mucronate sheaths. Inflorescence terminal, capitate with crowded sessile spikelets, subtending bract greater than inflorescence. **Spikelets** 1–(3), 3.5–7.0 mm long, 2–3-flowered. Glumes 5–7, dark brown to almost black with green median nerve, 2–3 lowest smaller, empty. Hypogynous bristles 6, usually $>$ nut, yellow-brown and scabrid towards the apex, often branched and basally plumose with long white hairs. **Stamens** 3. **Style branches** 3. **Nut** ovoid to elliptical-oblong, 1.5–2.0 mm long, yellow-brown, smooth, glossy, surface cells minute (appearing as dimples), angles scarcely thickened.

SIMILAR TAXA

Schoenus concinnus has been treated as a variety of *S. nitens* (R.Br.) Hook.f. Both species are superficially similar. *Schoenus nitens* differs by its broader culms, less densely tufted growth habit, taller stature, inflorescences of 2-many spikelets, obtuse rather than subacute bright chestnut-brown rather than dark brown to almost black glumes, and grey-brown to red-brown rather than yellow-brown, smaller nut (1.5 mm cf. 1.5–2.0 mm long). Both *Schoenus nitens* and *S. concinnus* differ from the other rush-like species by having well developed leaves.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. Present also in Australia.

Schoenus concinnus has a peculiar distribution. In the North Island, it has been found amongst sand dunes on the Karikari Peninsula and near Whatipu and then is mainly known from the central ranges and Mount Taranaki or Mount Egmont. In the South Island it is widespread in coastal or alpine situations. On the Chatham Islands it is strictly coastal.

HABITAT

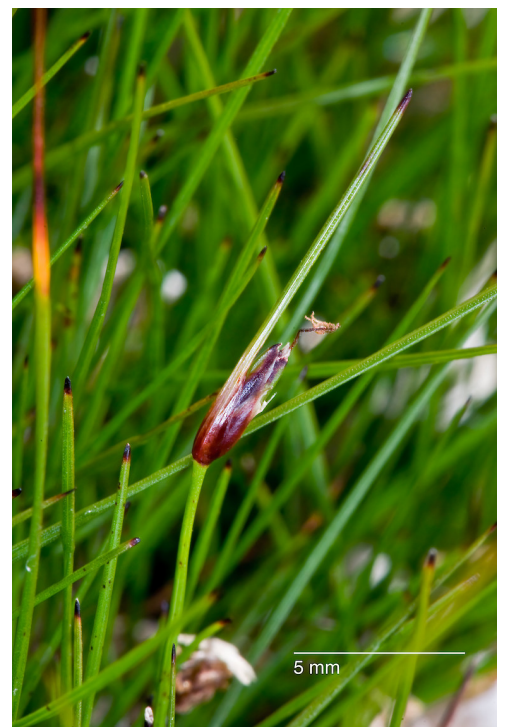
Coastal to alpine (up to 1200 m a.s.l.). In permanently damp, usually exposed and sunny situations. Often in coastal or alpine turf or along the margins of tidal streams, inland rivers, ponds and lakes.

GENUS

Schoenus



In cultivation ex Chatham Island. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation ex Chatham Island. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Schoenus concinnus Hook.f.

SYNONYMS

Schoenus nitens var. concinnus (Hook.f.) Cheeseman; S. moorei Kirk

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October–January

FRUITING

December–May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from the division of whole plants and from fresh seed. An attractive sedge that looks great in pots that are kept partially submerged and placed in the full sun.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ETYMOLOGY

schoenus: Rush

concinnus: Charming, elegant

NVS CODE

SCHCON

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.68

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Endangered | Qualifiers: Sp, DPR, DPS, DPT, PF, RR Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland”](#) Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened 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.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (8 September 2006). Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970)

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/schoenus-concinnus/>

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08 June 2026