**Schoenus maschalinus**

**COMMON NAME**
Dwarf bog rush

**SYNONYMS**
Chaetospora axillaris R.Br.; Schoenus axillaris (R.Br.) Poir.; Scirpus foliatus Hook.f.; Schoenus subaxillaris Kü.K.; Schoenus foliatus (Hook.f.) Blake; Schoenus foliatus (Hook.f.) Kü.K.

**FAMILY**
Cyperaceae

**AUTHORITY**
Schoenus maschalinus Roem. et Schult.

**FLORA CATEGORY**
Vascular – Native

**ENDEMIC TAXON**
No

**ENDEMIC GENUS**
No

**ENDEMIC FAMILY**
No

**STRUCTURAL CLASS**
Sedges

**NVS CODE**
SCHMAS

**CHROMOSOME NUMBER**
2n = 10

**CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS**
2012 | Not Threatened

**PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS**
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened

**DISTRIBUTION**
Indigenous. North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. Also in Australia, New Guinea as far north as the Philippines.

**HABITAT**
Coastal to alpine (up to 1400 m a.s.l.). In damp, poorly drained soils in a wide range of habitats from dense forest to river margins, lake sides to alpine seepages and turfs.
FEATURES
Small, flaccid, tufted or widely spreading green and leafy sedge. Culms 0.3-1.0 m long, 0.5 mm diameter, bright green, usually trailing and rooting at nodes, branched toward apices. Leaves numerous, 10.0-35.0 x 0.5-1.0 mm, almost flat, alternate, spreading, obtuse, margins usually finely toothed towards leaf apex; sheath enclosing 1/3 of internode, membranous, often red-purple. Spikelets 1-3 in the axils of leaves, 2-3 mm long, 1-2-flowered, light brown or reddish purple, sessile or on short, scabrid stalks. Glumes 5, ovate-lanceolate, more or less obtuse, 2 lowest smaller, empty, membranous, mucronate 1-2 upper glumes fertile, margins hyaline, median nerve pale green. Hypogynous bristles mostly 6, white or yellow-brown, thread-like, slightly greater than or occasionally less than nut, persistent. Stamens 3. Style branches 3. Nut 1 x c.1 mm, white, elliptic-ovoid, angles green and thickened, apex acute, occasionally with a small trigonous, persistent, style-base.

SIMILAR TAXA
Schoenus fluitans is very closely related to S. maschalinus Roem. et Schult., and terrestrial plants of S. fluitans or those left stranded by receding waters in particular have some resemblance to it. From S. fluitans, S. maschalinus is distinguished by its much smaller, more widely creeping plant (up to 1 m diameter) and wide range of habitat preferences. Schoenus maschalinus is invariably bright green (never red), is much a more slender, wispy plant, has 6 rather than no hypogynous bristles, and white rather than a black or brown mottled black nut. Both species share the same chromosome number (2n = 10), and nrDNA ITS sequences place them as sister species.

FLOWERING
Throughout the year

FRUITING
Throughout the year

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easily grown from fresh seed, rooted pieces and by the division of whole plants. An attractive ground cover for a damp site. Will grow in full sun or heavy shade. Once established can tolerate mowing

ETYMOLOGY
schoenus: Rush
maschalinus: With flowers in the leaf axils

WHERE TO BUY
Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION
Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

MORE INFORMATION