

# Triglochin palustris

## COMMON NAMES

marsh arrow grass

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT, RR, SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Summer green, erect, slender, bulbous herb forming small colonies. Leaves dark green to reddish-green, 50-500(-800) x 0.5-1 mm diam., fleshy, semicircular or slightly channelled in cross-section. Ligules undivided, subacute. Inflorescence arising on a stout peduncle 25-260(-400) mm long; racemose, with raceme more or less equal to peduncle length. Flowers pedicellate, pedicels up to 6 mm long, closely appressed to peduncle axis. Flowers c. 3 mm long, dark green to wine-red. Fruit 80-100 x 1 mm, narrow-linear, with the 3 fertile follicles unkeeled, dorsifixed, partially separating from the base, resulting in an arrow shaped structure.

## SIMILAR TAXA

A distinctive species, immediately recognised by the arrow-head fruits borne on a long slender raceme are immediately diagnostic. Occasionally *Triglochin striata* may grow inland in similar habitats. It is a much smaller plant, lacking a bulbous base, with rounded leaf ligules, and fruits that are subglobose rather than arrow-shaped.

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand known only from the eastern side of the South Island, where it has been reported from South Canterbury, Northern and Central Otago.

Common in the Northern Hemisphere and South America.

## HABITAT

Montane wetlands. Found growing along the sides of slow flowing streams, on tarn and lake margins and in sphagnum bogs.

## THREATS

Herbarium records indicate that this species has always been localised. However, it is also easily overlooked. Nevertheless some Canterbury sites have vanished and in some of the Otago sites the species is very vulnerable to weed invasion of its wetland habit. Very few populations occur on protected land, and many are accessible to livestock which greedily eat plants.

## GENUS

Triglochin



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## FAMILY

Juncaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

Triglochin palustris L.

## SYNONYMS

Triglochin palustre L.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

December to February

## FRUITING

December to March

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown in damp soil or partially submerged pots from divisions or whole plants. Fresh seed should germinate easily.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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

## ETYMOLOGY

**triglochin**: Three-pointed

**palustris**: From the Latin palus 'swamp', meaning growing in swamps

## NVS CODE

TRIPAL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, RR, SO, Sp

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: RR, SO, Sp

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: SO, DP

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, NR, NStr, RR 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

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

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### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/triglochin-palustris/>

### **PDF DATE**

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