

# Trisetum lasiorhachis

## SYNONYMS

*Trisetum antarcticum* var. *lasiorhachis* Hack.

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Trisetum lasiorhachis* (Hack.) Edgar

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island only, mainly in subalpine to alpine portions of the Central North Island and adjacent main axial ranges. Also collected on Mt Pirongia, and in the past from near Waiuku and Mt Wellington, Auckland. It is now extinct at these last two locations.

## HABITAT

Usually a montane to subalpine species (600-1500 m a.s.l.) but occasionally found at lower altitudes. May be found growing in scrub, open forest, tussock grassland, along river and stream sides, and on rock outcrops



## FEATURES

Stout, erect to somewhat lax, narrowly tufted, greyish green, glaucous to dull green grass 50-850 mm tall, sometimes rhizomatous, with pale straw-coloured leaf-sheaths. Leaf blades usually bearing scattered long, pilose hairs, with pilose hairs on culms and with the panicle-rachis and branches usually pubescent. Branching extravaginal. Leaf-sheath to 60 mm long, pubescent. Collar hairs sparse, pilose, long. Ligule 0.3-0.8 mm, truncate, erose, glabrous or ciliate. Leaf-blade 50-250 x 1.3-3.0 mm, flat, rarely inrolled and narrower, often with scattered long hairs, undersides prickle-toothed toward apex, upper surface ribbed with more or less scattered minute prickle-teeth or short hairs on ribs; margins minutely prickle-toothed, and often bearing scattered long pilose hairs. Culm 100-500 mm, internodes pilose above and below nodes, densely pilose, pubescent or glabrous towards panicle. Panicle 30-210 x 10-50 mm, lanceolate, usually open with visible rachis but spikelets clustered and individually inconspicuous; rachis, branches, and pedicels densely pilose to sparsely, minutely hairy. Spikelets 5-8 mm, pale green or purple-tinged. Glumes unequal, keels often strong, prickle-toothed in upper 1/2 or almost throughout; lower 2/3-4/5 length of upper, narrow-oblong, tapered to an often long-acuminate apex, upper < spikelet, elliptic, acute to shortly acuminate; margins almost entire with very few prickle-teeth near apex. Lemma 5.0-7.5 mm, bicuspid, minutely prickle-toothed or papillate; awn 5.0-9.5 mm, straight to later recurved, insertion point in upper 1/2 to 1/3 of lemma. Palea minutely prickle-toothed on keels and margins. Callus hairs to 0.8 mm. Rachilla hairs to 2 mm. Lodicules c.1.3 mm, glabrous. Anthers 1.8-22. mm. Ovary to 1 mm long; stigma-styles to 2.4 mm. Seed 2.5 x 0.8 mm.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to the grasses of New Zealand

## SIMILAR TAXA

Closest to *T. serpentinum* Edgar et A.P.Druce with which it shares distinctly hairy culms and leaves. However, *T. lasiorhachis* does not grow on ultramafic substrates. While *Trisetum serpentinum* is characteristically reddish-green, *T. lasiorhachis* is green to grey-green. In *T. serpentinum* the lemma is 3.0-4.5 mm long, the awns less than or equal to the lemma; the leaf-blade inrolled, < 1 mm diameter, only very rarely flat and up to 2 mm wide. In *T. lasiorhachis* the lemma is 5.0-7.5 mm long; the awn is much greater than of equal to the lemma; the leaf-blade is usually flat (rarely inrolled), and 1.3-3.3 mm wide. *T. lasiorhachis* is known only from the North Island, while *T. serpentinum* is occurs in both the North and South Islands,.

## FLOWERING

November - February

## FRUITING

January - May

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces but will not thrive in humid climates. Does best in damp soil, in a cool spot with plenty of air movement

## ETYMOLOGY

**trisetum**: Three-bristled

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Edgar, E.; Connor, H.E. 2000: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 pp.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/trisetum-lasiorhachis/>