

# Urochloa mutica

## COMMON NAMES

para grass

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stoloniferous perennial grass which grows up to 2 m tall. **Culm** 2–5 mm diameter, simple or narrowly branched. **Leaf-blade** c. 20 cm long, hairy and up to 16 mm wide. **Panicle** consists of up to 12 racemes on a rachis up to 16 cm long; each raceme has numerous paired spikelets.

## SIMILAR TAXA

The large velvety leaves, covered in hairs with small wart-like swelling at the base distinguish this species.

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Maximum growth is attained in swampy places and stream banks, however it can tolerate and persist in partial shade.

## GENUS

Urochloa

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

Urochloa mutica (Forssk.) T.-Q.Nguyen

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## YEAR NATURALISED

1977

## ORIGIN

North Africa

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Spread is primarily by long stolons and bending branches, both of which root at the nodes. Spread of the species by seed is unlikely as flowering is uncommon and sparse. The climate on Raoul Island is probably too cool for seed to set, and marginal for flower initiation (Skerman and Riveros 1990 in West 1996).

## NVS CODE

UROMUT



## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Skerman PJ, Riveros F. 1990. Tropical Grasses. *FAO Plant Production and Protection Series no. 23*. Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Rome.

West CJ. 1996. Assessment of the weed control programme on Raoul Island, Kermadec Group. *Science & Research Series No. 98*. Department of Conservation, Wellington, NZ. 100 p.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/urochloa-mutica/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026