

Poa sudicola

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Poa sudicola Edgar

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

POASUD

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, ST

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, North West Nelson, Kahurangi National Park, Matiri Range. Known from only two sites.

HABITAT

Subalpine grass inhabiting limestone scree and steep calcaerous mudstone slopes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Long-rhizomatous, greyish-green, tufted grass with persistent leaf-blades. **Leaf-sheath** light greenish-brown, flushed purple, keeled with few prominent ribs. **Ligule** 0.5–1–(1.5) mm, hairless, entire, truncate, inner surface minutely puberulent-scabrid. **Leaf-blade** (20)–50–90–(120) mm, inrolled, 1 mm diam., wiry, virtually hairless. **Culm** 100–250 mm, slender, internodes hairless. Inflorescence a sparingly branched panicle 20–450–600 mm. **Spikelets** 6–9 mm, 3–4-flowered, greenish brown. **Glumes** subequal, acute to subobtusate; lower (3)–3.5–4 mm, 1–3-nerved, narrow elliptic, upper (3.5)–4–4.5 mm, 3–5-nerved, broadly ovate. **Lemma** 4.5–5–(6) mm, 5–7–(9)-nerved, elliptic-lanceolate, acute membranous, margins entire. **Palea** 3.4–(5) mm.



Pressed specimen. Photographer: Shannel Courtney, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Poa sudicola in foreground. Photographer: Shannel Courtney, Licence: CC BY-NC.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to the grasses of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

Possibly closest to *P. novae-zelandiae* and *P. subvestita* but distinguished from both by the very long creeping rhizomes.

FLOWERING

Unknown

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

FRUITING

Unknown

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown from division of whole plants, and stem cuttings. Seed has never been seen in the wild so its germination requirements remain uncertain. Has proved difficult to maintain in cultivation.

THREATS

Known from just two small areas, where it is not very common. The species is dioecious and both male and female plants are known but seed has never been seen. The exact sex-ratio of the wild populations has not been determined, and as the species is rhizomatous the possibility that much of the observed plants are clones needs to be considered.

ETYMOLOGY

poa: Meadow grass

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 23 January 2004. Description adapted from Edgar (1986).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Edgar E. 1986. *Poa* L. in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 24: 425–503.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Poa sudicola* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/poa-sudicola/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/poa-sudicola/>

PDF DATE

17 September 2024