

Triglochin palustris

COMMON NAME

marsh arrow grass

SYNONYMS

Triglochin palustre L.

FAMILY

Juncaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Triglochin palustris L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

TRIPAL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

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

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered

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.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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



Herbarium specimen: AK 222287.

Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 30/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Herbarium specimen: AK 222287.

Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 30/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.

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.

FLOWERING

December to February

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

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.

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.

ETYMOLOGY

triglochin: Three-pointed

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

MORE INFORMATION

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