

Pentapogon youngii

BIOSTATUS

Native

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender tufts 0.3–1.3 m tall. **Leaf-sheath** papery, membranous, ribbed, glabrous or finely hairy, light green. **Ligule** 0.8–2.5 mm, truncate, ciliate to lacerate. **Leaf-blade** 120–350–(600) × 1–4 mm, stiff, flat or rolled, undersides smooth, upper ribbed, finely scabrid on ribs; margins finely scabrid, apex filiform, acute. **Culm** 0.4–1.15 m, nodes conspicuous, internodes usually smooth, sometimes scabrid near panicle. **Panicle** 70–160–(220) × 5–23 mm, linear-lanceolate, shortly and narrowly branched; rachis smooth, branches scabrid, pedicels slightly scabrid. **Spikelets** 4.5–7.5 mm, light green or purplish, crowded. **Glumes** 1-nerved, submembranous, elliptic-lanceolate, acute, scabrid, keel scabrid. **Lemma** (4)–5–6 mm, = glumes, scabrid, elliptic-lanceolate, apex denticulate; awn usually present, (0.5)–1–3 mm, straight, occasionally overtopping lemma apex. **Callus hairs** fine, covering $(\frac{1}{4})$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ lemma length. **Rachilla prolongation** 1.5–2.5 mm, surmounted by dense hair-tuft 2–3.5 mm. **Anthers** penicillate.

SIMILAR TAXA

The narrow, cylindrical panicle places *Pentapogon youngii* near *Pentapogon avenoides*, *P. quadrisetus*, and *P. lacustris*. From these species it differs by the callus hairs extending for $\frac{1}{2}$ the lemma length, and by the conspicuous hair tuft of the rachilla prolongation reaching the top of the lemma, or almost so. The lemma and rachilla prolongation characters place *P. youngii* close to *P. aucklandicus* from which it differs by the linear-lanceolate panicle, lemma 4–6 mm long, and by the straight awn rarely projecting beyond the glumes. In some plants the callus hairs are reduced, but in these cases the short awn and penicillate anthers are distinctive.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island only, where it is known from scattered sites from lake Sylvester (North West Nelson) south to Otago.

HABITAT

Lowland to alpine. In forest clearings, tussock grassland, shrubland, boulderfield, on shaded bluffs, and along lake margins.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT

THREATS

Naturally uncommon and of sporadic occurrence. In some lowland locations it may be threatened by grassland weeds.

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Pentapogon youngii (Hook.f.) de Lange L.M.H.Schmid, comb. nov.

SYNONYMS

Agrostis youngii Hook.f., *Calamagrostis youngii* (Hook.f.) Petrie, *Calamagrostis petriei* Hack., *Deyeuxia petriei* (Hack.) Cheeseman, *Calamagrostis youngii* var. *petriei* (Hack.) Petrie, *Deyeuxia youngii* var. *petriei* (Hack.) Cheeseman,

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

October–February

FRUITING

October–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Dislikes humid climates. Can be grown from the division of whole plants and fresh seed but plants tend to be short-lived.

OTHER INFORMATION

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to the grasses of New Zealand](#)

NVS CODE

PENYOU

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange PJ, Schmid LMH. 2022. New combinations in *Pentapogon* for Aotearoa / New Zealand taxa earlier placed in *Deyeuxia* (Poaceae). *Ukrainian Botanical Journal* 79(2): 73–76.

Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Manaaki Whenua Press, Christchurch, NZ. 650 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000)

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NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pentapogon-youngii/>

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