

Chionochloa flavicans f. temata

COMMON NAMES

Te Mata Peak snow tussock

BIOSTATUS

Native

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tall, rather stout, often sprawling, flabellate tussock with persistent leaves and sheaths. **Leaf-sheath** to 150 mm, pinkish or purplish, chartaceous, entire, becoming fibrous, keeled, glabrous or with a few long hairs, apical tuft of hairs to 1 mm. **Ligule** to 0.7 mm. Leaf-blade to 750 × 8 mm, dark green, often distinctly glaucous, keeled, persistent, glabrous except for some short hairs above ligule and prickle-teeth on margins and abaxially at apex. **Culm** to 1.5 m, internodes glabrous. Inflorescence to 300 mm, clavate, dense and compact, not naked below; rachis smooth below, branches and pedicels densely scabrid and with some long hairs at branch axils. **Spikelets** of up to 4 distant florets. **Glumes** to 4 mm, broad, shallowly bifid, sometimes purpled, margins ciliate, prickle-teeth adaxially above, < nearest lemma lobes; lower 3-nerved, upper 5-nerved. **Lemma** to 4 mm, shorter and broader than typical form; hairs dense on margin, few aside central nerve, rarely reaching sinus, prickle-teeth above adaxially and abaxially on nerves; lateral lobes to 0.2 mm, conspicuously awned adjacent to a small lobe; central awn to 6 mm, reflexed, column absent. **Palea** to 4.5 mm, interkeel with a few short hairs. **Callus** to 1.5 mm, hairs to 4 mm. **Rachilla** to 0.25 mm. **Lodicules** to 1 mm. **Anthers** to 4 mm. **Ovary** to 1 mm; stigma-styles to 3 mm. **Seeds** to 3 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Very closely related to *C. flavicans* Zotov. f. *flavicans* from which it differs by its smaller over all floret dimensions, more compact growth habit, and leaves which are often distinctly blue-tinged.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Hawke's Bay, where it is only known from Te Mata Peak, Havelock North.

HABITAT

Confined to limestone cliffs where it can at times be locally dominant.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

THREATS

A narrow range limestone endemic, naturally confined to a localized limestone outcrop where it is one of the more common species present.

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Chionochloa flavicans f. *temata* Connor

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1991)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No



ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

September–November

FRUITING

November–May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unlike its close relative *C. flavicans* f. *flavicans*, f. *temata* has proved to be rather slow growing and often fickle in cultivation. It is an attractive plant with slightly more glaucous leaves than f. *flavicans*, and so well worth trying to grow.

OTHER INFORMATION

CULTIVATION

Occasionally offered by specialist native plant nurseries.

ETYMOLOGY

chionochloa: Snow grass

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2004 | Range Restricted

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).

Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Chionochloa flavicans* f. *temata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chionochloa-flavicans-f-temata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chionochloa-flavicans-f-temata/>

PDF DATE

24 October 2024