

# Koeleria riguorum

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Koeleria riguorum* Edgar et Gibb

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Data Deficient

2004 | Data Deficient

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South island (scattered sites from North-west Nelson to northern Canterbury). Probably more widespread than this as it is easily overlooked.

## HABITAT

An alpine to subalpine species of sedge-dominated wetlands.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender perennial grass 25–(36) cm tall with fine rhizomes. **Leaves** often reddish-purple with the erect, mature panicles well overtopping leaves. **Leaf-sheath** strongly ribbed, finely hairy between ribs, pale straw to purple-suffused. **Ligule** 0.6–1.1 mm, truncate to subacute, finely hairy. **Leaf-blade** 3.2–9.5–(17) cm × 0.3–1.2 mm, usually folded, rolled, or flat, linear filiform, hairless (rarely finely hairy), strongly ribbed, margin finely scabrid. **Panicle** 2–5–(7) × 0.3–1 cm, spike-like. **Spikelets** (3.6)–4.2–(6.5) mm, 2–(3)-flowered bright green, banded with purple and golden-brown. **Glumes** subequal, lanceolate to elliptic-ovate, acute or obtuse, lower 3.5–4 mm, 1–3-nerved, keel scabrid in upper 1/3; upper glume 4–4.2 mm 3–5–(7)-nerved. **Seed** c. 2 × 0.7 mm.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *K. novozelandica* but differing from that species by the longer slender rhizomes, leaf-blades diverging at an angle of 30 degrees, reddish leaves and culms, and by the conspicuously purplish and golden-brown colour banding in the spikelets. It is also unusual in being the only indigenous *Koeleria* to prefer wetland habitats.



## FLOWERING

No information available

## FRUITING

No information available

## LIFE CYCLE

Florets are dispersed by wind and possibly attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown by division but hard to maintain. Dislikes warm, humid climates. Should be easy from fresh seed.

## THREATS

Described in 1999. *Koeleria riguorum* is probably not threatened but there are very few recent (>1980) collections. Therefore until detailed surveys state otherwise it has been rated as Data Deficient simply as a precautionary measure.

## ETYMOLOGY

**koeleria:** Named after George Ludwig Koeler (1765-1807), 18th century German botanist. Author of a work on the grasses of Germany and France, *Descriptio graminum in Gallia et Germania* (1802).

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## TAXANOMIC NOTES

New Zealand *Koeleria* might be better placed in *Trisetum*.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11*: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/koeleria-riguorum/>