

Centrolepis pallida

COMMON NAME

centrolepis

SYNONYMS

Gaimardia pallida Hook.f.; Alepyrum pallidum (Hook.f.) Hook.f.; Pseudalepyrum pallidum (Hook.f.) Dandy; Centrolepis minima Kirk

FAMILY

Restionaceae

AUTHORITY

Centrolepis pallida (Hook.f.) Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

CENPAL

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Central Volcanic Plateau, and Ruahine Range), South Island (Otago, Southland and Fiordland), Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

HABITAT

Montane to alpine in bogs descending to near sea level in the Subantarctic islands.

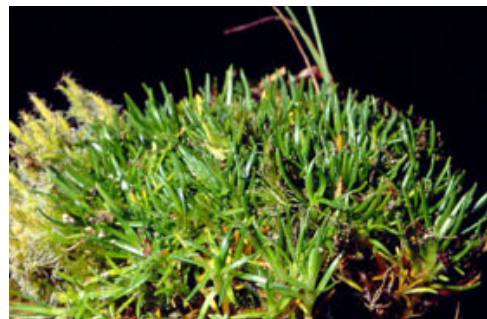
WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

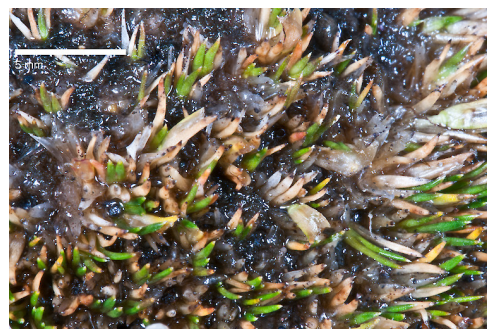
Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dense, pale or bright green, moss-like cushions. **Roots** comparatively thick, but < 0.5 mm diameter **Stems** 15–40 mm long. **Leaves** 6–9 mm long, < 0.5 mm. wide, distichous, equitant at the base, closely imbricate up the stem, lamina stiff, erect, glabrous, subulate, laterally compressed or occasionally channelled, narrowed to an acute or occasionally shortly acicular tip; leaf-sheaths c. ½ length of lamina, very pale cream, membranous, without ligule or auricles. **Flowering stems** about equal leaves in length. **Floral bracts** 2, ± opposite, unequal in length, the lower larger. **Pseudanthia**, 1 in each floral bract, or 1 bract without pseudanthium; male 1 only, in the lowermost pseudanthium, at maturity the filament elongated excessively and the anther far exerted; female 1–3–(4) in each pseudanthium; hyaline scales 0. **Seed** ± 0.5 mm long, oblong-obovate, apiculate at one end.



Mangatepopo, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mount Ruapehu. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/02/2012, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by the pale or bright green, moss-like, cushion forming, perennial rather than annual growth habit and pale or bright green, densely imbricating glabrous leaves.

FLOWERING

December–January

FRUITING

January–March

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

centrolepis: Pointed scale

pallida: From the Latin pallidus 'pale or pallid'

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Centrolepis was formerly in the family Centrolepidaceae, which was shown by Briggs et al. (2014) to be embedded within Restionaceae. Based on these findings, the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group adopted an enlarged concept of Restionaceae that included Centrolepidaceae (APG IV 2016), which is followed by NZPCN.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (14 August 2006). Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Angiosperm Phylogeny Group. 2016. An update of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group classification for the orders and families of flowering plants: APG IV. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 181: 1–20.
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Ford KA. 2014. Centrolepidaceae. In: Breitwieser I, Brownsey PJ, Heenan PB, Wilton AD. Flora of New Zealand - Seed Plants. Fascicle 2. Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln. <https://doi.org/10.7931/J2H41PBX>

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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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/centrolepis-pallida/>