

Netrostylis capillaris

SYNONYMS

Chaetospora capillacea Hook.f.; *Chaetospora capillaris* F.Muell.; *Cladium capillaceum* (Hook.f.)C.B.Clarke; *Machaerina capillacea* (Hook.f.) Koyama; *Tetraria capillaris* (F.Muell.) J.M.Black

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Netrostylis capillaris (F.Muell.) R.L.Barrett, J.J.Bruhl et K.L.Wilson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

TETCAP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 20

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Australia and New Zealand. In New Zealand present in the North Island from Te Pahi south to about Taranaki and Hawke's Bay, and in the South Island recorded from the Nelson area and Westland.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Usually in seral vegetation within swamps, peat bogs, pakihi, gumland scrub, on sand podzols, in dune slacks or in open ground within regenerating kauri (*Agathis australis*) forest. Sometimes found fringing burn pools in peat bogs.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).



Shakespeare bluff, Whitianga, April.

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Shakespeare bluff, Whitianga, April.

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, tussock forming, rather gracile perennial herb. **Rhizome** short and lignaceous, up to 1 mm diameter, covered within membranous, red or pale brown, imbricate bracts. **Culms** 0.15–1.20 m tall, 0.5 mm diameter, glossy bright green to yellow-green, rather slender, wiry. **Basal leaves** reduced to red, mucronate, sheathing bracts; the uppermost up to 150 mm long, with a very slender mucro-like lamina, up to 5 mm long. **Panicle** 15–30 mm long, composed of 2–8 usually stalked spikelets; subtending bracts with a long lamina > spikelets. **Spikelets** c. 5 mm long, narrow, dark brown or reddish, (1)–2-flowered. **Glumes** distichous, lanceolate, acuminate, with white membranous margins, the upper 1–2 pubescent towards the apex, the others glabrous, the lower 3–4 and the upper 1–2 empty. **Hypogynous bristles** 0. **Stamens** 3. **Style-branches** 3. **Nut** 1.5 × 1–1.2 mm, ellipsoid or oblong-ovoid, light brown with 3 white ribs, surface smooth, crowned by a pubescent, persistent style-base, as long as the nut but much narrower throughout.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with *Schoenus carsei* Cheeseman from which it is best distinguished by the absence of hypogynous bristles (usually 3 rarely absent in *S. carsei*), and smaller (1.5 × 1.2 mm cf. 2 × 1 mm) light brown nut bearing three prominent white ribs otherwise smooth, and crowned by a pubescent, persistent style base of equal length to the nut. In *Schoenus carsei* the nut is uniformly white and smooth, and completely lacking a persistent style-base. *Schoenus carsei* and *Netrostylis* have been found growing together.

FLOWERING

October–March

FRUITING

January–June (but fruits may be present throughout the year)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of whole plants, although as with many cyperaceous plants, specimens resent root disturbance and can take some time to recover from transplanting. Best grown in full sun on a poorly draining clay soil.

ETYMOLOGY

capillaris: From the Latin capillus ‘hair’ or ‘thread’, meaning hair-like or thread-like

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

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REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Barrett RL, Bruhl JJ, Wilson KL. 2021. *Netrostylis*, a new genus of Australasian Cyperaceae removed from *Tetraria*. *Telopea* 24: 53–60. <https://doi.org/10.7751/telopea14922>.

Gardner RO. 1998. *Schoenus carsei* and *Tetraria capillaris*. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 53: 38–40.

Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. *Flora of New Zealand*, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/netrostylis-capillaris/>

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