

# Puccinellia macquariensis

## COMMON NAMES

Macquarie Island saltgrass

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Evaluated

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial tufts, 40–250 mm, with culms ± hidden by leaf-sheaths and panicles overtopped by the soft, dull green leaves; branching intravaginal.

**Leaf-sheath** glabrous, hyaline, whitish green, much wider than leaf-blade.

**Ligule** 0.7–1.5 mm, erose. **Leaf-blade** 20–80 × c. 1 mm, flat or folded, sometimes with inrolled margins, glabrous throughout, leaf apex obtuse.

**Culm** erect, or geniculate at base, internodes glabrous. **Panicle** 15–60 × 0.5–1.0 mm, lanceolate; branches few, short, erect, sharply angled, smooth to sparsely scabrid. **Spikelets** 4–8 mm, 3–5-flowered, pale green, sometimes purplish. **Glumes** ± unequal, elliptic-ovate to elliptic-oblong, obtuse; lower 1.6–2.6 mm. 1–3-nerved, upper 2.0–3.5 mm, 3–5-nerved.

**Lemna** 3–4 mm, 5-nerved, elliptic to elliptic-oblong, glabrous or with a few hairs at base and on nerves near base, mid-nerve almost reaching obtuse apex. **Palea** more or less the same as lemma in length, keels conspicuously long-ciliate at midway with shorter prickle-teeth in upper ¼, and glabrous in lower ¼, apex truncate to bifid, keels not excurrent.

**Rachilla** 0.7–1.2 mm. **Anthers** 0.4–0.9 mm. **Seed** 1.5–1.7 × 0.6–0.8 mm.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Endemic to Macquarie Island where it is the only species of *Puccinellia* Parl. present. It is perhaps closest to the *P. walkeri* (Kirk) Allan group from which it differs by the hyaline, whitish rather than firmly membranous, straw-coloured, greyish, greenish-brown or purple leaf-sheath; smooth rather than adaxially scabrid leaf-blade and margins; and by the palea keels conspicuously ciliate at midway rather than node.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Macquarie Island.

## HABITAT

Mainly coastal where abundant in dense patches on rock stacks and cliffs

## THREATS

This is a Macquarie Island endemic and occurs in the New Zealand Botanical Region but it is not encompassed by the New Zealand threat classification process as Macquarie is under the management of Australia.

Cats, rats, mice and rabbits introduced by sealers in the early 1800s posed a significant threat to species endemic to Macquarie Island and when cats were initially eradicated nearly a century later there was an explosion in rabbit numbers. Further efforts were made to remove rodent pests by the Australian Government and in 2014 Macquarie was declared pest free.

## GENUS

Puccinellia



Macquarie Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 24/03/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.



Macquarie Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 24/03/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Puccinellia macquariensis* (Cheeseman) Allan et Jansen

## SYNONYMS

*Triodia macquariensis* Cheeseman

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

Unknown

## FRUITING

Unknown

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Not known from cultivation.

## ETYMOLOGY

**puccinellia:** After the Italian botanist Benedetto Puccinelli (1808 - 1850).

**macquariensis:** From Macquarie Island

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## NVS CODE

PUCMAC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 28$

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Evaluated

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/puccinellia-macquariensis/>

## PDF DATE

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