

# Rytidosperma thomsonii

## SYNONYMS

*Danthonia thomsonii* Buchanan, *Triodia thomsonii* (Buchanan) Petrie,  
*Notodanthonia thomsonii* (Buchanan) Zotov

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Rytidosperma thomsonii* (Buchanan) Connor et Edgar

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

RYTTHO

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24, 48

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Data Deficient

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Recognition in the field: a medium stature *Rytidosperma* with erect culms, crowded dark spikes and florets with very short awn. The hairs on the lemma are only in two tufts on the margin.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (east of the main divide south to Otago).

## HABITAT

A species of dry lowland and montane grassland.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to larger plants of *Rytidosperma pumilum* (which shares its habitat) which has scattered hairs on the lemma between the tufts and the awn is not visible to the naked eye. Also similar to *R. buchananii* which has a long bent awn on the floret.



Herbarium voucher. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## FRUITING

January

## ETYMOLOGY

**rytidosperma:** Wrinkled seed

**thomsonii:** After Thomson

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## NOTES ON TAXONOMY

There is good morphological and cytogenetic evidence that *R. thomsonii* could be split into at least two species

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rytidosperma-thomsonii/>