

Schoenus nitens

SYNONYMS

Chaetospora nitens R.Br.; *Scirpus nitens* (R.Br.) Boeck., *Schoenus nitens* (R.Br.) Roem. et Schult. var. *nitens*

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Schoenus nitens (R.Br.) Roem. et Schult.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

SCHNTE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 74$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North, South and Chatham Islands. Also in Australia and New Guinea. In New Zealand abundant from about Whatipu south to Wellington - with scattered populations in the far north (Reef Point, Te Aupouri, and Te Pahi). Scarce in the South Island. Abundant on the main Chatham Island.

HABITAT

Coastal. A species of damp ground within sand flats, dune swales, and the margins of tidal creeks, brackish swamps, lagoons and ponds.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizomatous, tufted rush-like sedge. **Rhizomes** lignaceous, up to 1.5 mm diameter, loosely covered by large, membranous, overlapping scales. **Culms** 10–400 mm long, slightly greater than 0.5 mm diameter, dark green, red-green to greenish brown, wiry, erect, striated, unbranched, densely tufted or widely spaced along rhizome. **Leaves** less than culms, upper leaves alternate, rigidly setaceous, semi-terete, margins rarely scabrid towards leaf apex; basal leaves reduced to red-purple, grooved, mucronate sheaths. **Inflorescence** terminal, capitate with crowded sessile spikelets, subtending bract greater than inflorescence. **Spikelets** (2)–4–many, 2–5 mm long, 2–3-flowered. **Glumes** 5–7, bright chestnut-brown with green median nerve, 2–3 lowest smaller, empty. **Hypogynous bristles** 6, usually > nut, yellow-brown and scabrid towards the apex, often branched and basally plumose with long white hairs. **Stamens** 3. **Style branches** 3. **Nut** ovoid to elliptical-oblong, 1.5 mm long, light grey-brown to red-brown, smooth, glossy, surface cells minute (appearing as dimples), angles scarcely thickened.

SIMILAR TAXA

Schoenus concinnus (Hook.f.) Hook.f. is somewhat similar but differs by its finer culms, more densely tufted growth habit, smaller stature, often solitary spikelets (there may occasionally be three spikelets), subacute rather than obtuse glumes, and yellow-brown rather than grey-brown to red-brown, larger nut (1.5–2.0 mm cf. 1.5 mm long). *Schoenus nitens* differs from the other rush-like species by having well developed leaves.

FLOWERING

October–February

FRUITING

December–July

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from the division of established plants and from fresh seed. Prefers a damp, well drained soil in full sun.

ETYMOLOGY

schoenus: Rush

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/schoenus-nitens/>

PDF DATE

17 September 2024