



Chionochloa crassiuscula subsp. *torta*

Common Name(s):

curly snow tussock

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (east and west of Main Divide from about southern Marlborough and Westland to Fiordland).

Habitat:

Subalpine to alpine. Often the dominant species in grasslands with impeded drainage or bogs.

Features*:

Short, stout, robust, shining tussock with smooth, pungent, much twisted, deciduous and leaving leaves, with many imbricate old sheaths. Leaf-sheath to 120 mm, shining above, darkened below, sometimes purpled usually with many inter-rib hairs. Leaf-blade to 300 × 6 mm, keeled, drawn out into long tapering, twisting or curling, pointed apex; disarticulating at ligule, abaxially glabrous except for prickle-teeth towards apex, adaxially papillate but with some prickle-teeth especially near ligule; margin thickened, long hairs below or sometimes with prickle-teeth. Culm to 650 mm, often purpled, internodes usually hairy, often hairy below inflorescence. Inflorescence to 150 mm, open, pulvinate; spikelets often paired on flexuous branches; rachis, branches and pedicels with mixed long and short hairs or rachis hairy on margins only. Spikelets of up to 7 golden florets. Glumes thin, purpled, acute or mucronate from between teeth or aristate to erose, greater than or equal to adjacent lemma lobes; lower to 12 mm, shortly 1-3-nerved, glabrous, upper to 16 mm, 5-7-nerved, margin often long hairy below otherwise glabrous. Lemma to 6 mm, shining; hairs dense on margin and in mostly all internerves, usually absent from central nerve, < sinus; lateral lobes to 6.5 mm including awn to 3 mm, or triangular-acute or long acute; central awn to 12 mm slightly twisting and markedly reflexed from flat column to 2 mm. Palea to 7 mm. Callus to 1 mm, hairs to 2.5 mm. Rachilla to 1.5 mm. Lodicules to 2 mm. Anthers to 4 mm. Ovary to 0.75 mm; stigma-styles to 3.5 mm. Seed to 3 mm

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

December - April

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000)

References and further reading:

Edgar, E.; Connor, H.E. 2000: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 pp.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1660



Caption: Ahuriri

Photographer: John Barkla



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