



Austroderia fulvida

Common Name(s):

Toetoe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island - throughout but generally scarce north of Auckland, where most populations attributed to *A. fulvida* are of the small 'Northland race' which may prove to be another species; also Marlborough in the South Island.

Habitat:

Found from the coast to subalpine area. Common alongside streams, lake margins, in damp spots within forest clearings, seepages, dunes and on hillsides, including sea cliffs. In the Central North Island is often found bordering with forestry roads and logging tracks.

Features*:

Robust, stout, tussock-forming grass up to 3.5 m tall when in flower (but see under distinguishing features). Leaf sheath glabrous, green, copiously covered in white wax. Ligule 1 mm. Collar light brown, glabrous. Leaf blade 1-2(-3) m x 2 cm, green, dark-green, often somewhat glaucous, upper side glabrous, surface rather harsh due to numerous prickle-teeth, undersides glabrous except near and on leaf margins where long, deciduous hairs are present, these grading into prickle teeth toward leaf apex. Culm up to 3.5 m, inflorescence portion up to 1 m tall, pendant, plumose. Spikelets numerous, 20 mm with 2-3 florets per spikelet. Glumes equal, 15 mm, < or equal to florets. Lemma 1 mm, 3-nerved, scabrid. Palea 4.5 mm, keels ciliate. Callus hairs 1.5 mm. Rachilla 0.5 mm. Flowers either perfect or female. Anthers of perfect flowers 3.8 mm, in females 2 mm. Ovary of perfect flowers 0.6 mm, stigma -styles 1.8 mm; female flowers with ovary 0.8 mm, stigma-style 2.5 mm. Seed 1.5-2 mm.

Flowering:

September - November

Fruiting:

October - March

Threats:

Abundant and not threatened. Often naturalising in suitable habitats.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 October 2006. Description adapted from Edgar & Connor (2000).

References and further reading:

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

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1757



Caption: Lake Waikaremoana
Photographer: John Sawyer



Caption: Pinnacles, Aorangi
Photographer: John Sawyer