Bolboschoenus fluviatilis

Common Name(s):

marsh clubrush, kukuraho, purua grass

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous.

Habitat:

Coastal to lowland in saltmarshes and other poorly drained saline areas, also found along some freshwater rivers and lakes. Sometimes invades pasture abutting tidal streams and estuaries.

Caption: Bolboschoenus fluviatilis
Photographer: Wayne Bennett

Features*:

Summer-green, bulbous perennial forming mostly densely clumped patches. Rhizome 7-9 mm diameter, woody, long-creeping, very dark brown, apices terminated by globose, ligneous tubers. Culms 1.5-2.5 m tall, 6-15 mm diameter, triquetrous, striated, smooth except just below inflorescence where scabrid on angles; basal sheaths loose, membranous, septate, brown to fawn, up to 150 mm long. Leaves numerous, less than, equal to , or greater than culms, 500 x 7-11 mm, double-folded but flattened, grass-like, tapering, coriaceous, margins and midrib scabrid towards apices; sheaths long, closed, coriaceous. Inflorescence a terminal, compound, irregular umbel; rays 6-9, unequal, 20-100 mm long, bearing clusters of 1-6 spikelets, a sessile glomerule of spikelets at the base of the rays; involucral subtending bracts similar to leaves, greater than inflorescence, unequal, 150-250 x 3-6 mm, as many as, or 1-2 fewer than rays. Spikelets 10-25 mm long, ovoid, or cylindric, dull red-brown. Glumes membranous, pubescent, apices cleft or lacerate, with a scabrid, recurved awn. Hypogynous bristles 6, more or less equal to nut in length, persistent, red-brown, retrorsely scabrid. Stamens 3. Style-branches 3. Nut 3.0-4.0 x 1.5-2.0 mm, equilaterally 3-angled with acute dorsal angle, obovate, apiculate, pale cream, occasionally black and glossy.

Caption: Bolboschoenus fluviatilis
Photographer: Wayne Bennett

Flowering:

October - January

Fruiting:

December - May

Threats:

Not Threatened

***Attribution:**

Description adapted from: Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

References and further reading:

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 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

For more information, visit:
http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2027