



Schoenus apogon

Common Name(s):

none known

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. North and northern South Islands, also Chatham Island. Also in Australia, New Guinea and Japan.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (up to 500 m a.s.l.). Preferring open, seasonally damp or poorly drained ground, usually within gumland, tea tree scrub or within pakihi or on the margins of low moor peat bogs. Sometimes an invasive weed of rough or poorly drained pasture. Rarely on ultramafics.

Features*:

Densely tufted, caespitose sedge. Culms numerous, 70-600 x 0.5-1.0 mm, densely packed at base, otherwise rather flaccid, unbranched, glabrous, occasionally finely scabrid just below inflorescence. Leaves 40-200(-600) mm long, usually less than, or rarely equal to the culm length; yellow green to green, linear to very narrow-linear, acute, channelled, margins slightly scabrid; sheaths membranous, reddish to red-purple. Panicle of 2-3 distant, or more or less approximate fascicles, the terminal usually with sessile to subsessile, densely clustered spikelets, lower fascicles, stalked, bearing loosely clustered spikelets; bract subtending each fascicle leaf-like, lowest bract overtopping whole inflorescence. Spikelets 4-6 mm long, 2-4-flowered. Glumes dark red, reddish purple to almost black, glossy, rarely pale cream near the slightly scabrid midrib, lower 1-3 glumes usually empty, often mucronate. Hypogynous bristles 6, > nut. Stamens 3. Style-branches 3. Nut slightly less than 1.0 x 0.5 mm, white with the 3 angles green or yellow, elliptic-oblong, almost globose, obtuse, apiculate, surface when viewed with a lens, conspicuously cellular, individual cells large.

Flowering:

August - April

Fruiting:

September - June

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

References and further reading:

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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2037



Caption: Mount Stewart, Manawatu. Dec 2012.

Photographer: Colin Ogle



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