



Schoenus brevifolius

Common Name(s):

bog Schoenus, The Stabber

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Inidgenous. North and South Islands. Also in Australia, New Caledonia and the Bonin Islands. In New Zealand mainly found from North Cape to about the southern Waikato and Rotorua district. Also recorded from the Nelson area.

Habitat:

Coastal to lower montane (up to 500 m a.s.l.). Preferring peat bogs - often ones dominated by restiads, but also frequent in gumland scrub, and in open, boggy ground within kauri (*Agathis australis* (D.Don) Lindl.) forest.

Features*:

Rush-like sedge up to 1 m tall. Rhizome hard, lignaceous and coarse, up to 8 mm diameter, covered with closely appressed, dark red, red-black to black glossy bracts. Culms closely packed, rigidly erect, 0.5-1.3 m long, c.2 mm diameter, dark green to yellow-green, smooth, often shallowly grooved on one side, apex maturing as a hard, grey, woody cap-like spike. Leaves reduced to 3-4 very dark red, hard, mucronate sheaths, the 2 uppermost with a short, subulate, erect lamina; orifice of sheath not ciliate. Panicle 80-300 mm long, very narrow, upright and stiff, occasionally bent at the apex, with more or less distant fascicles of 3-5 branchlets, each fascicle subtended by a short sheath similar to those at culm base; branchlets flexuous, flattened, with scabrid margins, often branched again, sheaths subtending secondary branchlets ciliate at the mouth, Spikelet terminating each branchlet 9-12 mm long, 2-4-flowered, lanceolate, red-brown. Glumes 7-14, ovate-lanceolate, acute, margins ciliate towards the apex, 4-6, lower glumes smaller, empty, 2-3 succeeding glumes fertile, uppermost 2-3 glumes sterile. Hypogynous bristles 0. Stamens usually 2, occasionally 3. Style-branches 3. Nut 1.5 x 1 mm, cream, turgid, surface distinctly rugose.

Flowering:

September - January

Fruiting:

November - 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=2038



Caption: Exposed rhizome. Surville cliffs. Feb 2011.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Kopouatai swamp, February

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth