



Schoenus tendo

Common Name(s):

kauri sedge, kauri Schoenus

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island from North Cape to about the southern Waikato, near Awakino and the Bay of Plenty.

Habitat:

Coastal to lowland. Mostly in gumland or tea tree scrub and in regenerating kauri (*Agathis australis* (D. Don) Lindl.) forest. Sometimes persistent on clay hills covered to pasture. Rarely colonising the margins of peat bogs.

Features*:

Rush-like sedge up to 1 m tall. Rhizome short, hard, lignaceous, up to 4 mm diameter, loosely covered in brown or greyish-brown bracts. Culms densely crowded, erect or drooping (often forming dense tangles), 0.4-1.2m long, c.1 mm diameter, light green to dark green, glossy. Leaves reduced to sheathing mucronate bracts, dark red-purple, almost black, the mucro more elongated in the uppermost bracts; mouth of sheath fringed by cobwebby hairs. Panicle 15-120 mm long, very narrow, with more or less distant fascicles of 3-4 branchlets, each fascicle subtended by a sheath 0.5-1.5 mm long, ciliate at the mouth; branchlets flexuous, laterally compressed and toothed along edges, each bearing a solitary spikelet or branched again. Spikelets 5-8 mm long, 2-4-flowered, linear-lanceolate, dark brown to almost black. Glumes 10-13, ovate lanceolate acute, margins ciliate towards the apex with tangled woolly hairs, the lower 6-8 glumes shorter, empty, 2-4 succeeding glumes fertile, the 2 upper glumes empty. Hypogynous bristles 3-6, thread-like, less than or greater than nut. Stamens 2. Style-branches 2(-3). Nut 1.5 x 1.0 mm, pale cream or light brown, unequally biconvex, obovoid, obtuse to retuse, surface smooth.

Flowering:

September - January

Fruiting:

October - July

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=2041



Caption: Whitianga, February
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: Oratia Valley, Waitakere Range. Jul 2007.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe