



## *Tetraria capillaris*

### Common Name(s):

Tetraria

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Indigenous. Australia and New Zealand. In New Zealand present in the North Island from Te Pahi south to about Taranaki and Hawkes Bay, and in the South Island recorded from the Nelson area and Westland.

### Habitat:

Coastal to montane. Usually in seral vegetation within swamps, peat bogs, pakihi, gumland scrub, on sand podzols, in dune slacks or in open ground within regenerating kauri (*Agathis australis*) forest. Sometimes found fringing burn pools in peat bogs.

### Features\*:

Tufted, tussock forming, rather gracile perennial herb. Rhizome short and lignaceous, up to 1 mm diameter, covered within membranous, red or pale brown, imbricate bracts. Culms 0.15-1.20 m tall, 0.5 mm diameter, glossy bright green to yellow-green, rather slender, wiry. Basal leaves reduced to red, mucronate, sheathing bracts; the uppermost up to 150 mm long, with a very slender mucro-like lamina, up to 5 mm long. Panicle 15-30 mm long, composed of 2-8 usually stalked spikelets; subtending bracts with a long lamina > spikelets. Spikelets c.5 mm long, narrow, dark brown or reddish, (1-)2-flowered. Glumes distichous, lanceolate, acuminate, with white membranous margins, the upper 1-2 pubescent towards the apex, the others glabrous, the lower 3-4 and the upper 1-2 empty. Hypogynous bristles 0. Stamens 3. Style-branches 3. Nut 1.5 x 1-1.2 mm, ellipsoid or oblong-ovoid, light brown with 3 white ribs, surface smooth, crowned by a pubescent, persistent style-base, as long as the nut but much narrower throughout.

### Flowering:

October -  
March

### Fruiting:

January - June (but fruits may be present throughout the year)

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

### References and further reading:

Gardner, R.O. 1998. *Schoenus carsei* and *Tetraria capillaris*. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*, 53: 38-40.

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=2042](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2042)



**Caption:** Shakespeare bluff, Whitianga, April

**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth



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