



## *Bolboschoenus medianus*

### Common Name(s):

Purua grass

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Indigenous

### Habitat:

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

### Features\*:

Summer-green, bulbous perennial forming mostly densely clumped patches. Rhizome 3-5 mm diameter, woody, horizontal, long-creeping, dark brown, apices terminated by globose, ligneous tubers. Culms 1(-2) per tuber, 0.7-1.5 m tall, 4-5 mm diameter, triquetrous, striated, smooth except just below inflorescence where scabrid on angles; basal sheaths loose, membranous, septate, brown. Leaves numerous, more or less equal to, or greater than culms, 450-500 x 6-8 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 4-6, unequal, 20-100 mm long, bearing clusters of 1-6 spikelets, a sessile glomerule of spikelets at the base of the rays; involucre 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 10-20 mm long, ovoid, or more or less cylindrical, dull red-brown. Glumes membranous, pubescent, apices cleft or lacerate, with a scabrid, recurved awn. Hypogynous bristles up to 6, in length < nut, persistent or shedding, red-brown, retrorsely scabrid. Stamens 3. Style-branches 2-3. Nut 3.0-4.0 x 2.0-2.5 mm, obovate, dorsiventrally compressed and plano-convex or trigonous with obtuse dorsal angle and convex sides, apiculate, maturing greyish to black and glossy.

### Flowering:

October - January

### Fruiting:

December - May

### 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. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

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=2075](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2075)



**Caption:** Coromandel, January  
**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth



**Caption:** In cultivation ex Kawhia.  
Oct 2007.  
**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe