



## *Bromus arenarius*

### Common Name(s):

sand brome

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Indigenous. In New Zealand known from mainly coastal locations from the Three Kings Islands south to Mahia Peninsula, thence disjunct to Wellington Harbour, and the Chatham Islands. It has been found once in the South Island, inland at Molesworth in Marlborough. Also on Norfolk Island and along the eastern side of Australia

### Habitat:

Coastal to lowland (with one montane record from Marlborough). A species of open rocky ground. coastal cliff faces, scree and boulderfield. Often associated with sea bird nesting grounds, especially gulls.

### Features\*:

Yellow-green annual 200-860 mm tall, tufted or solitary, basal leaves withering at or before flowering. Leaf-sheath densely villous. Ligule 1-2.6 mm, lacerate. Leaf-sheath 70-300 x 1.7-5 mm, densely villous. Culm 150-600(-800) mm, erect or geniculate-ascending, internodes pubescent below panicle. Panicle 70-260 mm, lax, nodding; branches filiform, curving. Spikelets 30-40 mm, 5-8-flowered, numerous, loosely hairy, oblong-lanceolate to wedge-shaped. Glumes unequal, acute, acuminate, apery, covered within long fine hairs; lower 7-9.5 mm, 3-nerved, narrow oblong-lanceolate, upper 9.5-13 mm, 5-7-nerved, narrow elliptic-lanceolate. Lemma 11-14 mm, 7-9-nerved, rounded, papery, oblong- to narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, covered with long fine hairs, apex sometimes entire or with 2-acute lobes, awn 14-20 mm, arising 2 mm below lemma apex. Palea  $\frac{3}{4}$  length of lemma, keels sparsely long-ciliate, interkeel glabrous. Callus with minute hairs. Rachilla 1.2 mm, pubescent. Anthers 0.8-1.5 mm.

### Flowering:

(July-)August-October

### Fruiting:

August-December

### Threats:

Although not really threatened this species is never particularly common anywhere. It has a naturally sporadic distribution.

### \*Attribution:

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000)

### References and further reading:

Edgar E. and H. Connor. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Volume 5. Manaaki Whenua Press: Lincoln, New Zealand.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2077](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2077)



**Caption:** *Bromus arenarius* inflorescence prior anthesis

**Photographer:** Peter de Lange, Ex Cult. October 2005



**Caption:** *Bromus arenarius* inflorescence after anthesis

**Photographer:** Peter de Lange Ex Cult. November 2005