



Trisetum antarcticum

Common Name(s):

None Known

Current Threat Status (2012):

Declining

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island south from the southern Egmont Coast, on Kapiti Island and western and southern Wellington Coasts to Cape Palliser. In the South Island at Cape Farewell and along the outer Marlborough Sounds and adjacent islands.

Habitat:

Coastal, on gravel, sand and bluffs.

Features*:

Densely tufted, dull green to grey-green grass up to 400 mm tall, with rather rigid leaves usually reaching or sometimes overtopping the dense spike-like panicles. branching extravaginal at plant base, sometimes intravaginal above. Leaf-sheath to 40 mm, very minutely pubescent or with extremely minute appressed hairs between ribs. Ligule 0.2-0.6 mm, truncate, erose often sparsely minutely ciliate, undersides sometimes minutely prickly-toothed. Leaf-blade 35-220 x 1.5-4 mm, flat or inrolled, undersides mostly smooth, often scabrid near the long-narrow tapering apex; upper surface ribbed with sparse to dense minute hairs and prickly-teeth on ribs, hairs slightly longer near ligule; margins minutely prickly-toothed. Culm 40-300 mm long, internodes glabrous, occasionally bearing a few minute prickly-teeth below panicle. Panicle 20-150 x 6-25 mm, compact, oblong, very dense, rarely with some lower branches and pedicels smooth or with sparse minute prickly-teeth or rarely minute hairs. Spikelets 4.5-7.0 mm, greyish green or brownish amber. Glumes unequal, hyaline, keel thickened with sparse long prickly-teeth on upper half; lower 2/3 to 4/5 length of upper, linear-lanceolate, upper slightly < spikelet, elliptic; margins with prickly-teeth near acuminate to almost mucronate apex. Lemma 4.0-6.2 mm, bidentate to shortly bicuspid, papillose, prickly-toothed above and on keel; awn 3.5-6.0, initially straight becoming recurved, insertion in upper 1/4 of lemma. palea with minute prickly-teeth on keels and usually on margins. Callus hairs to 0.5 mm. Rachilla hairs to 2.5 mm. Lodicules c.1 mm, glabrous. Anthers 1.0-1.7 mm. Ovary 0.8 mm; stigma-styles to 1.3 mm. Seed 2.5-3.0 x 0.6 mm.

Flowering:

November - February

Fruiting:

December - May

Threats:

Still quite common in parts of its range but there has been a range contraction around Wellington due to the spread of weeds into its habitat, and also because of greywacke quarrying along the south coast.

*Attribution:

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).

References and further reading:

Edgar, E.; Connor, H.E. 2000: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 pp.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=209



Caption: In cultivation, ex Makara. Dec 2004.

Photographer: Barbara Mitcalfe



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