



Anthosachne kingiana subsp. *multiflora*

Common Name(s):

blue grass, blue wheat grass

Current Threat Status (2012):

Data Deficient

Distribution:

Indigenous. In New Zealand present from the Three Kings Islands south throughout North Island to the South Island from Nelson to Banks Peninsula. Also present in Eastern Australia.

Habitat:

Primarily a coastal species of cliff faces, and rocky ground, utilising rocks of various substrates but showing a decided preference for base-rich substrates such as limestone, calcareous mudstone, siltstone and sandstones, basalt or the zeolite-rich facies of greywacke. On offshore islands it occasionally grows on open clay pans

Features*:

Tufted, stoloniferous, glaucous to green grass. Leaf-sheath 6-10 mm, striate, glabrous or retrorsely short hairy. Ligule 0.2-0.5 mm, margin frayed. Leaf-blade 100-200 × 2-4 mm, flat bright green or glaucous, ribbed, underside with small antrorse teeth or glabrous, upper with antrorse short hairs or prickle-teeth on ribs, margin shortly prickle-toothed. Culm 300-600(-900) mm, erect, suberect or drooping. Inflorescence 100-250 mm, of up to 6-15 spikelets. Spikelets 14-25 mm, of 7-12 florets. Glumes ± equal, 5-9 mm, 3-5-nerved, keeled, broad, margins papery, ciliate; keel and nerves prickle-toothed, sometimes extending into a short awn. Lemma apex often bifid, awn absent or about length of lemma. Palea 9-12 mm, apex truncate, retuse, ciliate. Rachilla 1-2.5 mm, hairy. Callus 0.75-1 mm, with scattered short hairs. Anthers 3-5 mm, purple or yellow.

Flowering:

September -February

Fruiting:

October -May

Threats:

Not Threatened but there are indications that it is slowly declining from some parts of the North Island (Northland, Auckland and Wellington) due to weed invasion of its habitat. Where it occurs this species needs to be carefully monitored as it may yet warrant formal listing.

***Attribution:**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange June 2005. Description adapted from Edgar & Connor (2000).

References and further reading:

Barkworth, M.E.; Jacobs, S.W.L. 2011: The Triticeae (Gramineae) in Australasia. *Telopea* 13: 37-56.

Edgar, E.; Connor, H.E. 2000: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. V. Lincoln, Manaaki Whenua Press.

Govaerts, R. 2014: New combinations for Philip Island wheat grass, *Anthosachne kingiana* subsp. *kingiana* (Poaceae). *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 27: 23-24.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2124