



Agrostis imbecilla

Common Name(s):

feeble bent

Current Threat Status (2012):

Data Deficient

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island, one record from Moawhango. South Island, infrequent in Canterbury and Otago

Habitat:

A montane, subalpine to alpine species of damp sites within tussock grassland.

Features*:

Delicate, slender, tufted perennial plants (100-)150-350 mm tall, with long, rather fine, spike-like panicles on slender culms > overtopping leaves. Leaf-sheath narrow, membranous, light cream-brown to reddish, glabrous, distinctly ribbed. Ligule 0.8-1.6 mm, obtuse, lower surface glabrous. Leaf-blade 20-130 x 0.2-0.4 mm, involute, filiform, flaccid, undersides finely striate and, in young leaves scabrid, upper surface scabrid on ribs; margins scabrid, apex tapered, blunt. Culm „b filiform, erect or geniculate at base, internodes glabrous. Panicle (25-)50-90 x 2-3 mm, contracted, narrow-linear, pale purple. Spikelets 1.5-2.4 mm, pale greenish purple or pale yellow. Glumes equal, lanceolate, scabrid on keel and on margins near acute tip. Lemma 1.5-1.9 mm, glabrous, 5-nerved, ovate-oblong, apex denticulate, usually without awns, if present these up to 1 mm, scarcely projecting beyond glumes. Palea 0.1-0.2 mm, ovate. Callus with few minute hairs. Anthers 0.6-1 mm.

Flowering:

unknown

Fruiting:

unknown

Threats:

Not directly threatened, but listed because it is a naturally uncommon species of sporadic occurrence.

***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.

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

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