



Puccinellia macquariensis

Common Name(s):

Macquarie Island saltgrass

Current Threat Status (2009):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. Macquarie Island.

Habitat:

Mainly coastal where abundant in dense patches on rock stacks and cliffs

Features*:

Perennial tufts, 40-250 mm, with culms \pm hidden by leaf-sheaths and panicles overtopped by the soft, dull green leaves; branching intravaginal. Leaf-sheath glabrous, hyaline, whitish green, much wider than leaf-blade. Ligule 0.7-1.5 mm, erose. Leaf-blade 20-80 x c.1 mm, flat or folded, sometimes with inrolled margins. Glabrous throughout, leaf apex obtuse. Culm erect, or geniculate at base, internodes glabrous. Panicle 15-60 x 0.5-1.0 mm, lanceolate; branches few, short, erect, sharply angled, smooth to sparsely scabrid. Spikelets 4-8 mm, 3-5-flowered, pale green, sometimes purplish. Glumes \pm unequal, elliptic-ovate to elliptic-oblong, obtuse; lower 1.6-2.6 mm, 1-3-nerved, upper 2.0-3.5 mm, 3-5-nerved. Lemma 3-4 mm, 5-nerved, elliptic to elliptic-oblong, glabrous or with a few hairs at base and on nerves near base, mid-nerve almost reaching obtuse apex. Palea more or less the same as lemma in length, keels conspicuously long-ciliate at midway with shorter prickle-teeth in upper $\frac{1}{4}$, and glabrous in lower $\frac{1}{4}$, apex truncate to bifid, keels not excurrent. Rachilla 0.7-1.2 mm. Anthers 0.4-0.9 mm. Seed 1.5-1.7 x 0.6-0.8 mm.

Flowering:

Unknown

Fruiting:

Unknown

Threats:

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a narrow range endemic known only from Macquarie Island.

*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=2233



Caption: Macquarie Island
Photographer: Jane Gosden