



Puccinellia stricta

Common Name(s):

saltgrass

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: North (southwards from Auckland City, but not recorded from Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, or Taranaki), South (coastal Nelson, and on eastern to south-eastern coasts throughout, inland in Otago near Sutton, and in Central Otago), and Stewart Islands. Also Australia.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane. Salt marsh, sandy or stony ground at high tide level; inland on saline soils

Features*:

Light bluish green or rarely pale yellow-green perennial tufts, 25-650 mm, with stiff culms and leaves, or with finer and less rigid leaves; branching intravaginal. Leaf-sheaths smooth, submembranous to subcoriaceous, ± distinctly nerved, light brownish to purplish; ligule 0.7-2.0 mm, smooth, rounded to truncate, or ± tapered at centre and acute; leaf-blades 10-120 mm, involute, c.0.5 mm diameter in rolled state, rigid and erect, or finer and softer, abaxially smooth, adaxially sparsely scabrous on nerves, or sometimes densely scabrous throughout, margins scabrous, narrowed to a fine acute tip. Culms 20-400 mm, enclosed by uppermost leaf-sheaths at flowering, later visible, smooth, erect. Panicle 20-200 × 2-55 mm, at first narrow-linear, racemose above, with few, erect, usually scabrous branches below, later more open with ± spreading branches bare at base. Spikelets 3.5-10.5 mm, 2-10-flowered, narrow, almost terete, light green to purplish. Glumes often quite unequal, elliptic-oblong, margins and sometimes midnerve minutely ciliate near tip; lower glume 0.6-2.3 mm, 1-nerved, subacute to subobtuse; upper glume 1.3-3.5 mm, 3-nerved, subobtuse to obtuse. Lemma 2-4 mm, 5-nerved, broad-elliptic, with very minute hairs at base not usually visible at ×10, and occasionally a few minute hairs on nerves near base, midnerve usually not quite reaching finely ciliate, obtuse tip. Palea slightly < lemma, bifid, keels scabrous in upper 2/3. Rachilla 0.5-1.0 mm. Anthers 0.4-1.0 mm. Seed 1.0-1.8 × 0.4-0.7 mm.

Flowering:

September - December

Fruiting:

October - March

Threats:

Not Threatened but uncommon north of the Waikato.

*Attribution:

Description from Edgar and Connor (2000).

References and further reading:

Edgar, E. 1996: *Puccinellia* Part. (Gramineae: Poae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 34: 17-32.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2234



Caption: Miranda

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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