



Schoenoplectus pungens

Common Name(s):

three-square

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. North, South and Chatham Islands. In the North Island found from West Auckland and Coromandel south, often scattered and apparently absent from Taranaki, extending inland along the Waikato River. In the South Island scattered and uncommon in Westland and Fiordland - found inland at Pareora Gorge (Canterbury) and Central Otago. Common on Chatham Island. Widespread in western Europe, America and Australia.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (up to 400 m a.s.l.). Usually not far from the sea in saltmarshes, brackish swamps and estuaries. Also more rarely found inland around freshwater lakes and ponds, and in damp saline slacks. Also recorded from waters draining geothermal sites along the Waikato River.

Features*:

Summer-green perennial. Rhizome 2-8 mm diameter, woody, with membranous, chartaceous scales at the nodes and numerous reddish fibrous roots. Culms 0.15-1.8 m, 1-6 mm diameter, pale glaucous-grey to dark green, triquetrous, with concaves sides, smooth, soft, bearing 1-2 very thin, membranous sheaths at the base. Leaves 1-4, < culm, 1-3 mm wide, linear, channelled, becoming triangular with margins sparingly scabrid towards the obtuse apex, adaxial surface membranous with obvious internal septa; sheaths long, closed, largely membranous. Inflorescence apparently lateral, of 1-4 unequal, closely compacted, sessile, spikelets; subtending bract 20-60 mm long, similar to stem and continuous with it, scabrid towards apex. Spikelets 6-11 x 3-5 mm, ovate, elliptic, dark purple-brown. Glumes broadly ovate, smooth, membranous, margins fimbriate, emarginate, midrib prolonged, mucronate, <, equal to or rarely slightly > small, round teeth of glume apex. Hypogynous bristles 2-6, < nut, retrorsely scabrid, red-brown. Stamens 3. Style-branches 3. Nut 3 x 2 mm, obovoid, plano-convex to subtrigonal, prominently apiculate, smooth, grey-brown.

Flowering:

October - January

Fruiting:

January - June

Threats:

Not Threatened

***Attribution:**

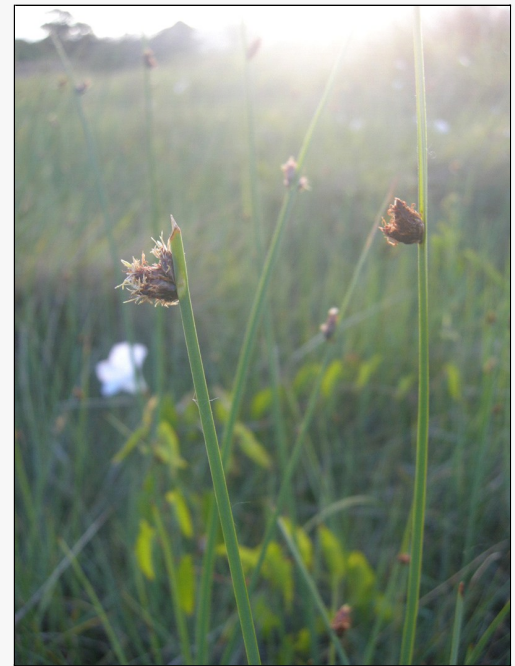
Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2251



Caption: Te Wherowhero Lagoon
Photographer: John Sawyer



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