



Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani

Common Name(s):

kuawa

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. North, South and Chatham Islands. Throughout the North Island, In the South Island present in Nelson, Marlborough, Westland otherwise only around Christchurch and Lake Ellesmere. On the Chatham Islands known from one place - where it is possibly introduced. Otherwise found throughout the world.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (up to 300 m a.s.l.). Mostly in standing water, growing in brackish or freshwater systems such as lakes, ponds, lagoons, river and stream margins. Also found well inland around geothermal systems.

Features*:

Rhizome 3-8 mm diameter, horizontal, hard and woody, red-brown, with loose papery, grey, well spaced, scales, 20 mm long; roots numerous, fibrous, reddish. Culms 0.6-3.0 m, 3-10 mm diameter, crowded or distant on rhizome, terete with spongy pith. Leaves reduced to loose, grey-brown, papery sheaths at base of culms, the uppermost to 350 mm long. Inflorescence seemingly lateral, comprised of numerous spikelets in a cymose irregular umbel, primary rays 10-60 mm long, scabrid; subtending terete bract << inflorescence. Spikelets 6-11 mm long, oblong-ovoid or oblong-ellipsoid, light brown, solitary, or in clusters of 2-4 on long, scabrid peduncles. Glumes about equal in length to nut, smooth, ovate, emarginate, shortly awned; margin narrow, hyaline, fringed. Hypogynous bristles 5-6, more or less equal to nut in length, retrorsely scabrid. Stigmas 2 (-3). Nut 2.0-2.5 x 1.5 mm, obovoid, plano-convex, apiculate, smooth, light grey.

Flowering:

November - January

Fruiting:

January - May

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=2252



Caption: Poutu Peninsula. Feb 1994.

Photographer: Colin Ogle



Caption: *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontanii*

Photographer: John Barkla