



Poa incrassata

Common Name(s):

None known

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island Central and western Otago to north eastern Southland. Also on Stewart and Auckland Islands.

Habitat:

Subalpine to alpine (> 1100 m a.s.l.) in damp ground within herbfield, fell field and open, windswept, poorly drained short tussock grassland.

Features*:

Diminutive, blue-green to grey-green, stoutly tufted, perennial grass 50-150 mm tall; branching extravaginal at plant base, intravaginal above; leaf-blades long persistent. leaf-sheath lustrous, greenish or reddish purple, later light grey-brown, membranous, glabrous, ribs conspicuous. Ligule 0.2-0.7 mm, apically glabrous, entire, rounded centrally narrowed to a point, lower surface minutely papillose. Leaf-blade 10-90 x 0.6-2 mm, usually folded, underside smooth, though scabrid on midrib near curved apex, upperside glabrous through shortly hairy above ligule, occasionally with a few prickle-teeth on midrib, lateral ribs indistinct; margins inrolled, shortly prickle-toothed. Culm 20-160 mm, internodes usually short-scabrid below panicle, sometimes smooth. Panicle 5-30 mm, compact, spike-like or racemose (pendulous), rarely open with a few rather short branches; rachis and branches stiff, angular, densely scabrid, spikelets few on scabrid pedicels. Spikelets 2.5-3.5 mm, 2-4-flowered, light green tinged maroon or purple. Glumes subequal, 1.5-2.5 mm, glabrous, with sparse prickle-teeth on nerves in upper half; lower glume occasionally smaller 1-1.5 mm, 1-3-nerved, narrow- to ovate-elliptic, subobtusate to obtuse, upper 3-nerved, ovate, obtuse. Lemma 2.2-2.5 mm, 5-7-nerved, ovate, strongly folded about midnerve, obtuse, cucullate, minutely papillose or finely scabrid near distinctly membranous margin, midnerve scabrid towards apex. Callus glabrous. Anthers 0.2-0.5 mm, purple. Ovary 0.4-0.5 mm; stigma styles 0.75-1.1 mm. Seed 1-1.3 x 0.5 mm.

Flowering:

December - January

Fruiting:

January - March

Threats:

A high altitude species that appears to be secure over its known range. Populations tend to be small and scattered but this appears to be natural rather than induced. Its status on the Auckland Islands is unclear though its small size has undoubtedly meant that it has been overlooked both there and in the South and Stewart Islands.

***Attribution:**

Fact Sheet by Peter J. de Lange (2 June 2006). 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=305