



Juncus acutus

Common Name(s):

sharp rush

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Scattered, but locally abundant in Northland, Auckland, Manawatu and Wellington, mostly coastal.

Habitat:

Wet and seasonally dry sandy areas

Features*:

Very stout, forming dense prickly tufts; rhizomes stout, woody. Stems (40) -60-100cm × 1.5-5 mm, very stiff and erect, smooth, light green. Basal sheaths shining dark red-brown. Leaves 1-2, basal, terete, similar to stem, with very pungent tip. Inflorescence large, compact 5-15 cm long. Flowers crowded. Tepals c. 3 mm long, ± equal, very hard, outer mucronate, inner truncate to emarginate with wide membranous margin at tip. Stamens 6. Capsule 4.5-5 mm long, much > tepals, ovoid, abruptly tapered, acute, reddish-brown to brownish-orange. Seeds with distinct tails.

Flowering:

Summer

Fruiting:

Autumn

*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Healy and Edgar (1980).

References and further reading:

Healy, A.J.; Edgar, E. (1980). Flora of New Zealand, Volume III. Adventive Cyperaceous, Petalous and Spathaceous Monocotyledons. Government Printer, Wellington. 220pp.

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Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A (1986). Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-factsheets/freshwater-pest-species>

Healy, A.J. (1982). Identification of weeds and clovers. New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Society Publication. Editorial Services Limited, Featherston. 299pp.

Kirschner, J. (compiler) (2002). Juncaceae 2: *Juncus* subg. *Juncus*, Species Plantarum: Flora of the World Part 7: 1-336.



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