



Trisetum drucei

Common Name(s):

None known

Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island from Mt Wharekia, East Cape south to near Taihape. In the South Island in North West Nelson, and eastern Marlborough from the Waima River south to North Canterbury (Parnassus)

Habitat:

A cliff dwelling species preferring calcareous mudstones, siltstones, sandstones, and marble and limestone. Occasionally on greywacke and ignimbrite rock. On these rocks it is usually found growing in seepages.

Features*:

Dense, tufted grass up to 600 mm with culms usually overtopping the dense, finely scabrid leaves; branching intravaginal. Leaf-sheath 20-80 mm, firmly membranous, grey-brown to light greenish brown, sometimes reddish, very densely minutely papillose or minutely scabrid to pubescent, rarely glabrous. Ligule 0.8-1 mm, truncate, erose, sparsely finely ciliate. Collar sometimes with a few stiff hairs up to 1.5 mm. Leaf blade 30-300 x 0.5-4 mm, dull green, glaucous or reddish, folded with inrolled margins or flat, firmly coriaceous, abaxially scabrid with dense prickle teeth, or smooth, or sparsely scabrid above, adaxially ribbed with minute prickle-teeth or densely pubescent on ribs; margins scabrid. Culm 100-400 mm, internodes glabrous or finely pubescent above, sometimes pilose, or minutely prickle-toothed below panicle. Panicle 50-200 x 10-30 mm, lanceolate, with short branches, more or less interrupted, not very dense, sometimes quite open; spikelets clustered and individual inconspicuous; rachis, branches and pedicels densely but minutely strigose or puberulous. Spikelets 6-8 mm, light green (often tinged reddish brown). Glumes unequal, membranous, keels with minute prickle-teeth in upper half; lower glume 3/4 of length of upper, narrow oblong to narrow ovate, upper glume 3/4 to almost equal the length of the spikelet, elliptic oblong; margins broadly hyaline, sparsely prickle-toothed near the acute, acuminate or rarely mucronate apex. Lemma 3.5-6 mm, bidentate or bicuspid, papillose, minutely prickle-toothed near midnerve; awn 3.5-7.5 mm, recurved, insertion in upper 1/4 of lemma. Palea minutely prickle-toothed on keels and on margins near apex. Callus hairs up to 1 mm. Rachilla hairs up to 2 mm. Lodicules 0.8-1.2 mm, glabrous. Anthers 0.8-2 mm. Ovary 0.8 mm; stigma styles 1.2 mm. Seed 2.5-3 x 0.7-0.8 mm.

Flowering:

October - February

Fruiting:

December - May

Threats:

Not threatened but rather uncommon and sporadic in its distribution

*Attribution:

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=333



Caption: Fruiting plant on mudstone cliff above Mangawharariki River, Mangaweka. Dec 1991.

Photographer: Colin Ogle