



Juncus squarrosus

Common Name(s):

heath rush

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Scattered but local abundant from Wairarapa and South Island from Marlborough to Otago and also Stewart Island.

Habitat:

Peaty and other low nutrient (acid) sites.

Features*:

Perennial, very dense coarse tufts (15) -25-35 cm high; roots thick, spreading. Stems stout, stiffly erect. Leaves many, usually all basal, c. 1/2 length of stems, wiry, very stiff, channelled, abruptly reflexed from just above very wide sheath. Inflorescence 2-8-(12) cm long, strict, with few unequal branches. Flowers in clusters of 2-3-(6) at ends of branches. Tepals 5-6 mm long, ± equal, dark chestnut-brown even in young flowers, tips subulate to acute. Stamens 6, Capsule c. 5 mm long, slightly < tepals, obovate, very shortly mucronate, yellow-brown to dark chestnut-brown.

Flowering:

Spring to early summer

Fruiting:

Summer to autumn

*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Featured 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.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

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-fact-sheets/freshwater-pest-species>

Kirschner, J. (compiler) (2002). Juncaceae 3: *Juncus* subg. *Agathryon*, Species Plantarum: Flora of the World Part 8: 1-192.

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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3349



Caption: Rock and Pillar Range
Photographer: John Barkla



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