



Poa sudicola

Common Name(s):

None known

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, North West Nelson, Kahurangi National Park, Matiri Range. Known from only two sites.

Habitat:

Subalpine grass inhabiting limestone scree and steep calcaerous mudstone slopes.

Features*:

Long-rhizomatous, greyish-green, tufted grass. Leaf blades persistent. Leaf sheath light greenish-brown, flushed purple, keeled with few prominent ribs. Ligule 0.5-1(-1.5) mm, hairless, entire, truncate, inner surface minutely puberulent-scabrid. Leaf-blade (20-)50-90(-120) mm, inrolled, 1 mm diam., wiry, virtually hairless. Culm 100-250 mm, slender, internodes hairless. Inflorescence a sparingly branched panicle 20-450-600 mm,. Spikelets 6-9 mm, 3-4-flowered, greenish brown. Glumes subequal, acute to subobtuse; lower (3-)3.5-4 mm, 1-3-nerved, narrow elliptic, upper (3.5-)4-4.5 mm, 3-5-nerved, broadly ovate. Lemma 4.5-5(-6) mm, 5-7(-9)-nerved, elliptic-lanceolate, acute membranous, margins entire. Palea 3.4(-5) mm, << lemma. Callus with tufts of long hairs below lemma nerves. Male flowers with anthers 2.9-3.3 mm, and rudimentary gynoeicum, female flowers with pollen sterile anthers, 0.6-1(-1.2) mm, stigma styles purple 0.75-2.2 mm. Seeds as yet unknown.

Flowering:

Unknown

Fruiting:

Unknown

Threats:

Known from just two small areas, where it is not very common. The species is dioecious and both male and female plants are known but seed has never been seen. The exact sex-ratio of the wild populations has not been determined, and as the species is rhizomatous the possibility that much of the observed plants are clones needs to be considered.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 23 January 2004. Description adapted from Edgar (1986).

References and further reading:

Edgar, E. 1986: *Poa* L. in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 24: 425-503

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=34



Caption: Pressed specimen

Photographer: Shannel Courtney



Caption: *Poa sudicola* in foreground

Photographer: Shannel Courtney