



## *Isolepis levynsiana*

### Common Name(s):

tiny flatsedge

### Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

### Distribution:

Scattered through the North Island and Nelson in the South Island, usually lowland.

### Habitat:

Margins of water bodies, wet roadsides.

### Features\*:

Small tufted annual, 2-10 cm high. Stems numerous, filiform. Leaves 1-2 basal, much > stems, setaceous; sheaths hyaline, mostly colourless but occasionally red-tinged at base. Inflorescence a solitary cluster of (1)-2-(5) comparatively large, digitate, very compressed spikelets varying from whitish-green to greenish-brown; lower subtending bract setaceous, < or > inflorescence, appearing as a continuation of the stem, occasionally a second setaceous bract or an upper spikelet with a short glume-like bract. Spikelets  $\pm 3-8 \times 2-3$  mm, oblong to ovate-lanceolate. Glumes many, densely imbricate,  $\pm 2$  mm long, obtuse, distinctly nerved, margins occasionally brown-splotched, keel green, later brown, tip slightly spreading. Stamens 1 or 2. Style-branches 3. Nut slightly >  $\frac{1}{2}$  length of glume, ellipsoid, acutely triquetrous.

### Flowering:

Throughout most of the year

### Fruiting:

Throughout most of the year

### \*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Factsheet descriptions from Croasdale et al., (1994).

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

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=4264](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4264)



**Caption:** Palliser Bay. Nov 2012.

**Photographer:** Pat Enright



**Caption:** Northland

**Photographer:** Kerry Bodmin