



## *Chionochloa beddiei*

### **Common Name(s):**

Beddie's tussock, Cook Strait tussock

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (South Wellington Coast from about the Orongorongo River east to White Rock east of Cape Palliser).

### **Habitat:**

Coastal and lowland. Usually on coastal bluffs, cliffs, talus slopes and sparsely scrub-covered promontories, occasionally extending for short distances inland

### **Features\*:**

Short, shiny tussock with stiff and widely spreading shoots and persistent leaves. Leaf-sheath to 150 mm, slightly keeled, pale yellow, persistent, becoming fibrous, margins above with long hairs, apical tuft of hairs to 2 mm. Ligule to 0.5 mm. Leaf-blade to 600 × 4 mm, flat to U-shaped, persistent, deflexed at collar, abaxially glabrous, adaxially with a weft of short hairs at base, abundant prickle-teeth above; margin with long hairs below, becoming shaggy, hairs mostly antrorse and appressed. Culm to 750 mm, internodes glabrous except for short, dense hairs below inflorescence. Inflorescence to 150 mm, congested with short branches, bristling with awns; rachis, branches and pedicels short soft hairy. Spikelets of up to 5 florets. Glumes to 13 mm, shortly awned, < adjacent lemma lobes, prickle-teeth above, otherwise glabrous; lower 1-3-nerved, upper 1-5-nerved. Lemma to 6 mm; hairs dense at margin and in all internerves, or sometimes only aside central nerve, > sinus; lateral lobes to 11 mm including strict awn to 8 mm, prickle-teeth adaxially and abaxially and on lemma margins; central awn to 22 mm much deflexed from twisting column to 4 mm. Palea to 8.5 mm, produced into two conspicuous narrow processes; prickle-teeth abaxially above. Callus to 1 mm, hairs to 5 mm. Rachilla to 1 mm. Lodicules to 1.75 mm. Anthers to 4.5 mm. Ovary to 1 mm; stigma-styles to 4 mm. Seeds to 3 mm

### **Flowering:**

November - December

### **Fruiting:**

December - May

### **Threats:**

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a naturally uncommon, regional endemic.

### **\*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.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=438](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=438)



**Caption:** Cape Palliser.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe



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