



## *Chionochloa crassiuscula* subsp. *directa*

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

Snow tussock

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

Naturally Uncommon

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Southland (Longwood Range, Takitimu and Hunter Mountains).

### **Habitat:**

Upper montane to alpine in short scrub, or within poorly drained or boggy grasslands. Often locally dominant.

### **Features\*:**

Short, slender, tussock with long prostrate stems forming large patches. Leaves shining, smooth, mostly straight, acute, deciduous, leaving many imbricate old sheaths. Leaf-sheath to 100 mm, glabrous, often reddish, shining above, darkened below, sometimes purpled or reddened, persistent, entire, compressed, sometimes apical tuft of hairs to 1 mm. Ligule 0.25 mm long. Leaf-blade to 250 × 3 mm, keeled, drawn out into long tapering, thin, straight, often somewhat twisting, pointed apex pungent, conduplicate, disarticulating at ligule, underside glabrous except for prickle-teeth towards apex, adaxially papillate but with some prickle-teeth especially near ligule; margin thickened, long hairs below or sometimes with prickle-teeth. Culm to 500 mm, often purpled, internodes glabrous. Inflorescence to 150 mm, open, pulvinate; spikelets often paired on flexuous branches; rachis, branches and pedicels with mixed long and short hairs or rachis hairy on margins only. Spikelets of up to 7 golden florets. Glumes thin, purpled, acute or mucronate from between teeth or aristate to erose, greater than or equal to adjacent lemma lobes; lower to 12 mm, shortly 1-3-nerved, glabrous, upper to 16 mm, 5-7-nerved, margin often long hairy below otherwise glabrous. Lemma to 5.5 mm, shining; densely hairy only on margin and aside central nerve, < sinus; lateral lobes to 6.5 mm including awn to 3 mm, or triangular-acute or long acute; central awn to 12 mm slightly twisting and markedly reflexed from flat column to 2 mm. Palea to 7 mm. Callus to 1 mm, hairs to 2.5 mm. Rachilla to 1.5 mm. Lodicules to 2 mm. Anthers to 4 mm. Ovary to 0.75 mm; stigma-styles to 3.5 mm. Seed to 3 mm

### **Flowering:**

October - January

### **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.

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

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=441](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=441)