



## *Amphibromus fluitans*

### Common Name(s):

Water brome

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable

### Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand, North and South Islands. In the North Island it is known from Ninety Mile Beach and Karikari Peninsula to Paekakariki and Lake Wairarapa. In the South Island known only from Maher's Swamp, near Punakaiki and from Lake Tekapo. Present in Australia where it is very uncommon. The largest populations of the species seem to be at the Waihora and Arohaki lagoons, at Lake Rerewhakaaitu in wetlands on the north eastern and eastern margin of Lake Wairarapa.

### Habitat:

Coastal to montane in moderately fertile, seasonally dry wetlands or along the edges of shallow lakes and lagoons.

### Features\*:

Somewhat flaccid to weakly tufted, stoloniferous, semi-aquatic grass, forming circular grey-green mats 70-400 x 150 mm on muddy ground (up to 400 mm tall when growing up through surrounding vegetation). Culms decumbent, rooting at lower nodes, erect or floating above. Leaf-sheath papery, smooth or scabrid, often wholly scabrid toward culm apex. Ligule 1.5-5 mm, long-tapered, acute, initially entire, becoming lacerate. Leaf-blade 50-125 x 0.6-3 mm, grey-green, flat or inrolled, upper surface somewhat scabrid, shallowly ribbed, undersides notably more scabrid and prominently ribbed, apex acute. Culm internodes mostly smooth, rarely scabrid below nodes. Panicle 65-13 mm, erect, initially enclosed below by uppermost leaf-sheath, at fruiting often expanding entirely above leaves; branches and pedicels scabrid. Spikelets 15-25 mm, 3-6-flowered, pale green. Glumes unequal, glabrous, obtuse margins ciliate-scabrid; lower 2-3 mm, 1-nerved, narrowly lanceolate, upper 2-4 mm, 3-nerved, ovate-lanceolate. Lemma 4-5.5 mm, 7-nerved, firm, green, margin rather wide, hyaline, minutely scabrid or hairy; lemma lobes 2, obtuse; awn 7-18 mm, straight, arising from lemma midpoint. Palea < lemma, keels stiffly ciliate, interkeel glabrous. Seeds 1.5-2 x 0.5-0.7 mm.

### Flowering:

September - May  
(dependent on water levels)

### Fruiting:

September - July  
(dependent on water levels)

### Threats:

Habitat loss through wetland drainage, stock grazing and competition from weeds.

### \*Attribution:

Description modified from Edgar and Connon (2000).

### References and further reading:

Edgar, E.; Connor, H.E. 2000: Flora of New Zealand Vol. V. Grasses. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 pp.

Gardner, R. 2000. Notes towards an excursion Flora. *Amphibromus fluitans* (Poaceae). Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 55: 54-55

Ogle, C.C. 1987. A rarely seen native grass *Amphibromus fluitans*. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 43: 29-32

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 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=47](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=47)



**Caption:** *Amphibromus fluitans* plants flowering on semi-dried mud of seasonal pond

**Photographer:** Colin Ogle Lake Wairarapa, Boggy Pond.



**Caption:** *Amphibromus fluitans* close up of spikelets

**Photographer:** Colin Ogle, Lake Wairarapa, Boggy Pond