



Anthosachne falcis

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, inland Waimakariri, Ashburton, Waitaki and Central Otago. Populations usually scattered

Habitat:

Dry open ground, river beds, rocky sites, clay pans and within short tussock (*Festuca novae-zelandiae*) grassland from 450-1250 m a.s.l.

Features*:

Small, glaucous, loosely tufted grass. Leaf sheath 20-50 mm, striate, retrorsely pubescent or glabrous. Ligule 0.3-0.5 mm, erose or finely toothed. Leaf-blade 50-150 x 0.5-0.7 mm, terete, involute, keeled and faintly ribbed, falcate, sinuous or irregularly curled, rarely straight, upper surface glaucous, with stiff erect, retrorse hairs 0.5-1 mm long, becoming glabrous, undersides densely hairy, lamina margin prickly-toothed, or with hairs 0.5 mm long. Culms 100-250 mm, prostrate to ascending, internodes smooth, glaucous. Inflorescences 20-100 mm, of 1-4 spikelets. Spikelets 40-50 mm, each with 4-6 shining florets. Glumes +/- equal, 4-9 mm, keeled, 3-nerved, becoming awned, glabrous, margins papery. Lemma smooth except for prickly-teeth on keel above, extending into falcate awn 30-50 mm. Palea 7-10 mm, apex pointed, bifid. Rachilla 1.5-2 mm, short stiff hairy. Callus 0.75 mm, very shortly bearded, hairs less than or equal in length to callus. Anthers 2.5 mm yellow (purple in some plants).

Flowering:

October - February

Fruiting:

November - March

Threats:

A local endemic of restricted distribution that while not believed to be threatened occupies a very narrowly defined range that is ever increasingly vulnerable to loss of habitat through the expansion of the wine industry in Central Otago and the increasing urbanisation of the Waitaki and McKenzie Basins

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P. J de Lange, June 2005. Description adapted from Edgar & Connor (2000).

References and further reading:

Barkworth, M.E.; Jacobs, S.W.L. 2011: The Triticeae (Gramineae) in Australasia. *Telopea* 13: 37-56.

Edgar, E.; Connor, H.E. 2000: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. V. Lincoln, Manaaki Whenua Press.

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=478



Caption: *Elymus falcis*

Photographer: Alan Stewart