



Poa foliosa

Common Name(s):

Muttonbird Poa

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: Stewart (north-eastern Titi Islands), Solander, Antipodes, Auckland, Campbell, and Macquarie (Australian Territory but part of the New Zealand Botanical region)

Habitat:

Coastal, usually near sea bird nesting grounds, often on steep slopes, sometimes in turf near shore.

Features*:

Dioecious, robust, green tussocks up to 1.5 m tall, arising from short, narrow, woody stolons, with shoots covered at base by abundant fibrous remnants of sheaths. Branching extravaginal; leaf-blades persistent. Leaf-sheath light brown, coriaceous, glabrous, closely striate, keel prominent above. Ligule 1-3 mm, apically glabrous, entire, rounded, abaxially finely scabrid. Leaf-blade 150-500 x 1-6 mm, coriaceous, tough, flat, abaxially smooth with prominent midrib and many lateral ribs, adaxially short-scabrid, bearing two prominent ridges along centre; margins thickened, smooth, tip entire, smooth, semi-pungent. Culm 200-600 mm, internodes glabrous. Panicle 100-250 mm, dense, with all branches, except the longer ones, bearing spikelets almost to base; rachis and branches mostly smooth. Spikelets 5.5-9.0 mm, 3-6-flowered, light greenish brown. Glumes subequal, long-acuminate, membranous, except for thickened nerves, smooth, but with a few prickle-teeth on nerves above and occasionally on margins; lower 3-6 mm, 1-3-nerved, narrow-lanceolate, upper 4.0-6.5 mm, 3-nerved, narrow elliptic-lanceolate. Lemma 5-7 mm, 5-nerved, acute or with midnerve very shortly excurrent, scabrid except near base, midnerve ciliate to more than halfway, outer lateral nerves, internerves, and margins with minute hairs in lower 1/3. Palea 3.5-4.5 mm, keel rather densely ciliate-scabrid, interkeel and flanks with sparse minute hairs and prickle-teeth. Callus with large tuft of crinkled hairs just below midnerve of lemma. Rachilla c.0.5 mm, glabrous. Lodicules 0.4-0.7 mm, rarely hair-tipped. Dioecious: male with anthers 2.0-3.3 mm, gynoecium 0; female with pollen-sterile anthers c.0.6-1.0 mm, often on long filaments; stigma-styles c.2 mm; seed 2 mm; rarely perfect.

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

November - April

Threats:

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a narrow range, offshore island endemic. It is abundant in its known locations with no obvious threats.

*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=637



Caption: Enderby Island

Photographer: Jane Gosden



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