



## *Poa pygmaea*

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

None Known

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

Naturally Uncommon

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Otago (Pisa Range and Mount St Bathans).

### **Habitat:**

Subalpine to alpine in snow hollows and on lake margins

### **Features\*:**

Small, dull grey-green to green, much-branched, very densely packed perennial, rooting from short prostrate branches and forming compact, rigid cushions to 100 × 25 mm high, slightly overtopped by filiform flowering culms with few spikelets; branching intravaginal, new shoots with densely imbricating leaves; leaf-blades persistent. Leaf-sheath much wider than leaf-blade, pale greyish brown, membranous, glabrous, shining, ± indistinctly ribbed. Ligule 0.5-1.0 mm, apically glabrous, entire, narrowed centrally to a short point, underside sparsely to densely minutely pubescent. Leaf-blade 3-7 × 1-2 mm, stiff, inrolled, underside glabrous, ribs prominent, upper surface strongly ribbed, ribs whitish with fine minute hairs or prickle-teeth; midrib scabrid near very curved, subobtuse or occasionally acute tip. Culm 15-25 mm, internodes mainly smooth with a few minute prickle-teeth above. Panicle 5-10 mm, contracted, racemose, with 1-3 spikelets; branches and pedicels glabrous. Spikelets 4.5-5.5 mm, 2-5-flowered, light green to purplish. Glumes equal, 2.5-3.5 mm, 3-nerved, ovate-elliptic, subobtuse, smooth or rarely with a few prickle-teeth on midnerve near tip; margins entire. Lemma 3.0-3.5 mm, 5-nerved, ovate, obtuse, lower ½ with fine, often crinkled hairs on nerves and sparse somewhat shorter hairs on internerves, upper ½ sparsely scabrid on midnerve and near wide membranous margin; midnerve occasionally minutely excurrent. Palea 2.5-3.0 mm, keels ciliate, interkeel with sparse minute hairs. Callus with few long hairs. Rachilla 0.5 mm, sparsely ciliate; prolongation twice as long. Lodicules 0.4-0.6 mm. Anthers 1.2-1.6 mm. Seeds c.1.5-2.0 × 0.5 mm.

### **Flowering:**

October - November (-December)

### **Fruiting:**

December - March

### **Threats:**

Not Threatened - but known to occupy only small areas within its few known habitats.

### **\*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=638](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=638)



**Caption:** Pisa Range (January)

**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth