



## *Poa ramosissima*

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

None Known

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

Naturally Uncommon

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. New Zealand: Auckland and Campbell Islands

### **Habitat:**

Coastal cliffs, usually associated with bird colonies

### **Features\*:**

Perennial forming soft, turfy bright green, patches, arising from long, bare prostrate culms with erect apices erect. Plants leafy and much-branched; branching intravaginal; leaf-blades persistent. Leaf-sheath greenish brown to purplish, glabrous, hyaline, ribs prominent. Ligule 1.5-4.0 mm, deeply and sharply lacerate, glabrous throughout. Leaf-blade 40-150 × 1-2 mm, thin, weak, flat, ribs many, strong, minutely papillose-scabrid, adaxially furrowed, evenly narrowed to very finely obtuse or subobtuse tip; margins glabrous. Culm 10-400 mm, internodes glabrous. Panicle 20-100 mm, ± oblong, contracted, usually overtopped by leaves; rachis glabrous, branches erect, short, scarcely spreading, finely papillose-scabrid, bearing few spikelets. Spikelets 4.5-7.5 mm, 3-5-flowered, greenish brown, very minutely papillose-scabrid. Glumes subequal or the lower obviously shorter, both narrow-lanceolate, acute or acuminate; lower 2.5-4 mm, 1-3-nerved, upper 3.0-4.5 mm, 3-nerved. Lemma 3.8-5.0 mm, 5-7-nerved, elliptic, drawn out to acute or acuminate tip, mid- and lateral nerves with a few short hairs near base. Palea 2.5-4.5 mm, very narrow, keels with a few short hair-like prickle-teeth. Callus with small tufts of long, twisted hairs below midnerve of lemma and occasionally below lateral nerves. Rachilla 0.5-1.0 mm, glabrous. Lodicules 0.3-1.0 mm, occasionally hair-tipped.

Gynomonoecious: each spikelet with 1-2 lower flowers perfect, anthers 1.5-2.5 mm, gynoecium c. 1.5 mm; upper flowers female with minute colourless anthers 0.1-0.7 mm, gynoecium c.1.5 mm. Seeds c.1.0 × 0.5 mm

### **Flowering:**

November - December

### **Fruiting:**

December - March

### **Threats:**

Not Threatened. Listed because this species naturally occupies a small geographic area within which it is very common

### **\*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:**

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