



## *Poa senex*

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

Old Man Poa

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

Naturally Uncommon

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Otago and Southland (Pisa, Old Man, Old Women, and Crown Ranges, also the Harris and Eyre Mountains).

### **Habitat:**

Alpine. On snow banks, in wet depressions, flushes, streamsides and other damp ground within alpine herbfield

### **Features\*:**

Diminutive, tufted, stoloniferous, glabrescent to glabrous, brownish green perennial grass, up to -250 mm tall, culms overtopping leaves; branching extravaginal; leaf-blades persistent. Leaf-sheath membranous, glabrous, ribbed, keeled. Ligule 0.5-1.5 mm, entire, tapered, glabrous throughout. Leaf-blade 10-35 × 1-2 mm, flat or folded, subcoriaceous, smooth, but midrib scabrid near curved tip; margins finely scabrid. Culm 30-200 mm, very slender, erect or geniculate at base, internodes glabrous. Panicle 10-30, ± open or contracted, with few, ovate spikelets; rachis, branches and pedicels slender with sparse, scattered prickle-teeth. Spikelets 2.0-3.5 mm, 2-3-flowered, light green, tinged purple. Glumes unequal, submembranous with hyaline margins, a few prickle-teeth on midnerve near tip; lower 1.5-2 mm, 1-nerved, narrow-lanceolate, acute, upper 2.0-2.5 mm, (1-)3-nerved, elliptic-oblong, subobtuse to obtuse. Lemma 2.0-2.5 mm, 5-nerved, elliptic-ovate, obtuse, glabrous, but midnerve with short crinkled hairs to c.½ length and sparsely prickle-toothed near tip, lateral nerves with a few hairs near base. Palea 1.5-1.8 mm, keels minutely scabrid, interkeel glabrous. Callus with a few wispy hairs. Rachilla c.0.5 mm, glabrous. Lodicules c.0.1 mm. Anthers 0.3-0.4 mm. Ovary 0.4-0.5 mm; stigma-styles 0.8-1 mm. Seeds c.1.0 × 0.5 mm

### **Flowering:**

November - December

### **Fruiting:**

December - March

### **Threats:**

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a Naturally Uncommon, Biologically Sparse, Range Restricted Alpine endemic.

### **\*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=640](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=640)