



Puccinellia antipoda

Common Name(s):

Antipodes Saltgrass

Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: Antipodes Islands

Habitat:

Mostly coastal on boulders, in peaty turf at the back of beaches, on cliff faces and rarely inland near sea bird nests and seal wallows.

Features*:

Erect, bluish green or light green to pale brownish green, stiff, dense, very leafy tufts, 65-250 mm, with uppermost leaves usually overtopping culms; branching intravaginal. Leaf-sheaths straw-coloured to light grey-brown or greenish brown, smooth, firmly membranous, finely nerved; ligule 0.6-3.0 mm, obtuse or truncate, or sometimes tapered at centre and acute, smooth, entire; leaf-blades 50-250 mm long, folded and then 5-10 mm wide, or sometimes almost flat, underside smooth, upper side shallowly ridged and sparsely scabrous on ridges, margins scabrous, tip smooth, ± firmly acute, sometimes subobtuse and ± apiculate. Culms smooth, usually enclosed by sheaths. Panicle 25-80 × 4-15 mm, ± overtopped by leaves, linear-lanceolate, erect, contracted, dense; branches stiff, erect, sometimes ± spreading at maturity, smooth to sparsely scabrous, sharply acute-angled. Spikelets 3-9 mm, 2-5-flowered, bluish green or sometimes purplish. Glumes ± unequal, narrow-lanceolate to elliptic-oblong, subacute; lower glume 1.5-4.2 mm, 1-3-nerved; upper glume 2.4-5.0 mm, 3-5-nerved. Lemma 3-5 mm, 5-7-nerved, elliptic-oblong, midnerve slightly excurrent, apex subobtuse, ciliate scabrous, usually with a few hairs at base and on nerves near base, sometimes with hairs on nerves to c. 1/2 way. Palea < or occasionally = lemma, keels scabrous in upper 1/2, excurrent. Rachilla 0.8-1.8 mm. Anthers 0.6-1.5 mm. Seed 1.5-2.6 × 0.4-0.8 mm.

Flowering:

Unknown

Fruiting:

Unknown

Threats:

Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted endemic which appears to be abundant on the islands. There are no known threats. The Antipodes are administered by the New Zealand Department of Conservation as a Nature Reserve, and are listed as a World Heritage site. All landings on these islands are strictly controlled.

***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=650