



## *Rytidosperma nudum*

### Common Name(s):

None known

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. North Island, Central Volcanic Plateau (Mt Ruapehu), Ruahine and Tararua Ranges.

### Habitat:

Subalpine to alpine in flushes and bogs.

### Features\*:

Diminutive, diffuse tufted grass, leafy at ends of elongating shoots, rooting at nodes; leaves somewhat acute, more or less equal to culms, dis-articulating at ligule. branching intravaginal. Leaf-sheath pale straw-coloured to light grey, glabrous; apical tuft of hairs few, 1-2 mm long. ligule to 0.4 mm. Leaf-blade to 80 mm, folded, narrow, rather soft, glabrous. Culm to 100 mm, internodes glabrous. Panicle small, erect, to 30 mm, of few spikelets on short pedicels; rachis and pedicels slender, closely short-scabrid and some longer hairs at branch axils. Spikelets usually 3-flowered, awns barely exerted from glumes. Glumes purplish centrally, ovate, obtuse, more or less equal, 3.5-7.0 mm long; lower 3-5-nerved, upper 3-nerved. Lemma 2.3-3.5 mm, 5-9-nerved, upper and lower rows of hairs very sparse, upper row usually of small marginal tufts with a few scattered hairs, elsewhere glabrous, margins with scattered hairs; lobes 0.2-0.5 mm, acute to acuminate, not awn-tipped; central awn 1-2 mm long, erect, column scarcely evident. Palea 2.4-2.8 mm long, reaching base of awn, sinus, = upper lemma hairs, inter keel glabrous, margins occasionally with a few long hairs. Callus c.0.3 mm long, a few marginal hairs not reaching lower lemma hairs, or marginal tufts denser, slightly overlapping lower lemma tufts. Rachilla 0.5-0.8 mm. Anthers 0.7-0.8. Seed not seen.

### Flowering:

November - January

### Fruiting:

Not known

### Threats:

A very local endemic, rarely collected.

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 30 August 2006. Description adapted from Edgar & Connor (2000).

### References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J.; Norton, D.A.; Heenan, P.B.; Courtney, S.P.; Molloy, B.P.J.; Ogle, C.C.; Rance, B.D.; Johnson, P.N.; Hitchmough, R. 2004: Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 45-76.

de Lange, P.J.; Norton, D.A.; Courtney, S.P.; Heenan, P.B.; Barkla, J.W.; Cameron, E.K.; Hitchmough, R.; Townsend, A.J. 2009: Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand (2008 revision). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 61-96.

de Lange, P.J.; Rolfe, J.R. 2010: *New Zealand Indigenous Vascular Plant Checklist*. Wellington, New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. 164pp.

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=672](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=672)



**Caption:** Mount Ruapehu. Feb 2012.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe