



## *Schoenus fluitans*

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

Floating Schoenus

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

Naturally Uncommon

### **Distribution:**

Indigenous. In New Zealand known from the North Island where it is only found in the Central Volcanic Plateau (from the southern Kaingaroa Plain south) and the Ruahine Ranges. In January 2006 it was discovered on Chatham (Rekohu) Island. Common in Australia.

### **Habitat:**

Mainly upper montane to subalpine (800-1500 m a.s.l.) bogs, tarns, slow flowing streams, muddy ground in and around seasonal pools, and on shallow lake margins. On the Chatham Islands *S. fluitans* has been gathered from restaid peat bogs in shallow pools amongst *Sporadanthus traversii* (F.Muell.) F.Muell.

### **Features\*:**

Densely tufted or floating, usually dark red sedge of shallow pools, slowly flowing streams or muddy ground left by receding waters. Culms up to 600 x 0.5 mm, rooted at base, in terrestrial forms rooting freely at leaf nodes, otherwise rest of culm floating. Leaves 20-100 mm long, dark red or green, in floating forms distant, otherwise rather tufted, filiform, flaccid in aquatic plants, more rigid in terrestrial plants; margins slightly scabrid toward leaf apices; sheath very long, green or red-brown, margins membranous to chartaceous, prolonged toward apex as a ligule. Spikelets 2-4-flowered, in terrestrial forms often buried within leaves and scarcely distinguished, in floating forms more obvious; 7-12 mm long, narrow-linear, solitary, terminal, subtended by a glume-like bract, or rarely 2-3 spikelets distant at the end of the culm, the lower ones subtended by more leaf like bracts. Glumes 3-4, lanceolate, obtuse, membranous, light red or pale cream; all fertile or the lowermost empty. Hypogynous bristles 0. Stamens 3. Style-branches 3. Nut 2 x 1 mm, obovoid, brown with black patches or entirely black.

### **Flowering:**

December

### **Fruiting:**

January - April

### **Threats:**

A usually upland species which appears to be locally common over parts of the Central Volcanic Plateau. In some parts of this range it faces competition from *Juncus bulbosus*, and there is some evidence that it has become extinct in the northern part of its range due to that aggressive weed. The 2006 discovery on the Chatham Islands was accidental and its exact status there has yet to be determined.

### **\*Attribution:**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (August 2006). Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970).

### **References and further reading:**

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Wellington, Government Printer

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=676](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=676)



**Caption:** Close up, inflorescences. Upper Moawhango. Dec 1996.  
**Photographer:** Colin Ogle



**Caption:** In peaty pool, upper Moawhango. Dec 1996.  
**Photographer:** Colin Ogle