



## *Sporadanthus traversii*

### Common Name(s):

Chatham Island bamboo rush,

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. Chatham Island only

### Habitat:

Found mainly on wet peat domes, also occurring in peaty dune hollows and on lake margins.

### Features\*:

Slender, upright to sprawling dioecious perennial, 0.6-1.8(-2.5) m tall, forming dense somewhat flaccid rafts. Rhizome 3-10 mm diameter, horizontal, sparingly branched, covered with tightly appressed, overlapping scales; scales 3-12 × 2-12 mm, broadly ovate to ± deltoid, chartaceous, dark brown, lustrous, apex rounded and mucronate. Roots 3-4 mm diameter, 50-120 mm long, grey, with few (if any) rootlets. Culms up to 2 m long, 1-5 mm diameter, gradually tapering toward distal end, firm, flexuose, slender, terete, smooth, dark green-brown to brown, often blotched black; branched in upper 2/3, branches numerous, firm, flexuose, scrambling, terete; basal 50-65 mm of culm slightly swollen with soft, spongy, light brown tissue. Culm base with 3-7 loosely appressed, overlapping scales; scales 8-25 × 10-12 mm, ovate to narrowly ovate, coriaceous, light brown to brown, nerves distinct, apex rounded and mucronate. Leaves along culm solitary, distant; lamina 15-30 × 6-11 mm, narrowly ovate, chartaceous, tan, brown to grey-brown, appressed to and sheathing culm, nerves distinct; margins entire to praemorse; apex rounded, with mucronate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle, often with cymose branching near base, 30-150(-200) mm long, dark dull brown, upright to spreading; male and female inflorescences sparse, not crowded; flowers subtended by 2 bractlets, subtended by 1 bract; inflorescence branchlets subtended by reduced leaves. Bracts 5.5-10.0 × 2.6-3.0 mm, ovate, narrowly ovate to lanceolate, light brown, membranous, apex acuminate, margins fimbriate. Bractlets 5.2-5.8 × 1.0-1.6 mm, lanceolate, membranous, light brown to yellow-brown, apex acuminate, margins entire. Flowers pedicellate to almost sessile. Tepals 6, in 2 whorls of 3, 4.0-6.0 × 1.0-1.2 mm, lanceolate, light brown, channelled, keeled, apex strongly acuminate. Male flowers with 3 stamens; filaments 1.6-3.0 mm long, anthers 1.8-2.3 mm long, cream, pollen yellow; pistil rudimentary. Female flowers with 1 pistil; style 1.0-1.5 mm long, pale orange, papillose on upper surface; ovary 0.6-0.7 × 0.3-0.4 mm, ellipsoid, brown to light brown, glossy; staminodes 3, each 1.5-1.6 mm long. Fruit 3.0-3.5 × 1.0-1.2 mm, oblong-ellipsoid, light brown to brown, surmounted by persistent short style; indehiscent. Seed 1.2-1.5 × 0.9-1.0 mm, oblong to broadly ovate, dark brown.

### Flowering:

October - February

### Fruiting:

February - March

### Threats:

It is threatened by burning, and to a lesser extent ploughing and sowing pasture species and also by prolonged cattle grazing in places. The weed species Chilean guava (*Ugni molinae*) is a threat to some populations.

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 18 January 2005. Description adapted from de Lange et al. (1999).

### References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Clarkson, B.D.; Clarkson, B.R. 1999: Taxonomy, ecology, and conservation of *Sporadanthus* (Restionaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37: 413-431

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=689](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=689)



**Caption:** *Sporadanthus traversii*

**Photographer:** Peter de Lange



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