



Stenostachys deceptorix

Common Name(s):

None known

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, North-West Nelson to Lake Tennyson

Habitat:

A monatne species that is usually found in tussock grassland bordering rivers but it is also known from the sides of sinkholes and other similar karst phenomena in the limestone and marble country of north-west Nelson

Features*:

Stout perennial, stoloniferous grass with somewhat flaccid, open or compact shoots of flat leaves, and a distinctly pendulous, narrow inflorescence. Leaf-sheath 50-100 mm, keel, frequently densely pubescent with short and long hairs or glabrous; becoming fibrous. Auricles 0.5-0.7 mm, scarcely clasping, occasionally bearing 1-2 long hairs. Ligule 0.3-0.5 mm, very faintly erose. Leaf-blade 100-300 x 1-2.5 mm, flat, thin, abundantly covered with fine prickle-teeth on ribs, occasionally with hairs 0.5 mm long between ribs of lower surfaces and sometimes near ligule; margin prickle-toothed. Culm stout 0.4-1.9 m, internodes glabrous, glossy; nodes more or less geniculate. Inflorescence slender, pendulous, 100-200 mm long, bearing 20-30 spikelets > internodes in length; rachis prolongation 2-6 mm. Spikelets up to 15 mm, of 1-3 florets, lustrous; 3.0-3.5 mm. Glumes 2, 5-10 mm long, equal, initially narrow canaliculate becoming awn-like, prickle-toothed, closely appressed to floret above, < spikelet. Lemma 8-10 mm long, smooth except for prickle-teeth below awn and near callus, sometimes pruinose, rarely bifid at apex; scabrid awn 5.0-6.5 mm. Palea 8-10 mm, greater than or equal to lemma; apex prolonged or retuse, ciliate; keels toothed. Callus short, surrounded by short stiff hairs; disarticulation flat. Rachilla 1.8-2.0 mm, bearing abundant stiff hairs. Lodicules 0.7-0.8 mm long. Anthers 3.0-3.5 mm long. Ovary 0.75-1.00 mm; stigma-styles to 2.5 mm. Seed 5.0-5.5 mm long. Flowers open or cleistogamous

Flowering:

November - January

Fruiting:

December - May

Threats:

Not Threatened. Still rather poorly known but appears to be locally common in parts of north-west Nelson. It may be bettered rated Sparse because it has been found near Lake Tennyson as well.

*Attribution:

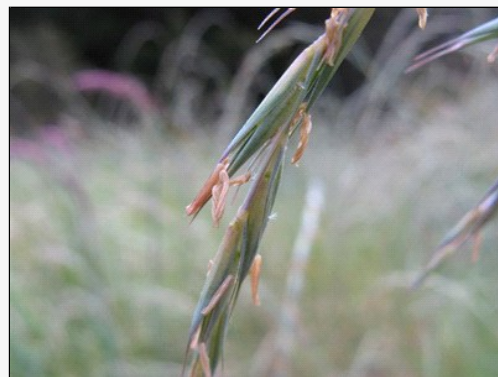
Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).

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=693



Caption: high river terrace, Haystack Creek, North West Nelson
Photographer: Alice Shanks



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