



## *Trisetum serpentinum*

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

Naturally Uncommon

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. North and South Islands only. In the North Island known only from the Surville Cliffs, North Cape. In the South Island confined to the ultramafic mineral belt of DURville Island, Mt Dun, and the Red Hills

### **Habitat:**

Confined to Ultramafic soils and rock exposures where it usually grows on open ground or mixed in with other short grasses. Occasionally on cliff faces

### **Features\*:**

Dark green, red-green to red, diffuse, tufted grass up to 800 mm tall. Leaves narrow, inrolled, overtopped by narrow to somewhat lax, purplish to maroon panicles. branching extravaginal. Leaf-sheath 10-40 mm, softly pubescent, with longer scattered hairs on sheaths of culm-leaves, often also on margins. Ligule 0.4-0.8 mm, erose, minutely ciliate. Leaf-blade 20-160 mm, inrolled, rarely not, < 1 mm diameter, up to 2 mm wide, often with scattered long hairs, undersides smooth or with fine prickle-teeth on ribs; margins minutely prickle-toothed, often with scattered long hairs. Culm 80-460 mm long, slender, internodes with long fine hairs above nodes, and with a small band of shorter hairs below nodes, uppermost node consistently glabrous. Panicle 20-100 x 5-20 mm, narrow-lanceolate to elliptic, sometimes open, with visible rachis and short ascending to spreading branches bearing clustered spikelets; rachises and branches with moderately dense, fine prickle-teeth and often a few longer hairs at lower nodes of rachis and at base of panicle. Spikelets 4-6.5 mm, purple or maroon. Glumes unequal, with sparse short prickle-teeth on keel; lower 2/3-3/4 length of upper, oblong-lanceolate, upper < to more or less equivalent in length of spikelet, elliptic-lanceolate; margins with very few minute prickle-teeth near acute to acuminate apex. Lemma 3.0-4.5 mm, bicuspid, minutely-papillose; awn 3-4 mm, usually recurved, insertion point in upper quarter of lemma. Palea minutely prickle-toothed on keels and margins. Callus hairs 0.2 mm. Rachilla hairs to 0.8 mm. Lodicules to 1 mm, glabrous. Anthers to 1.5 mm long. Ovary to 0.8 mm; stigma-styles to 1 mm. Seed not seen.

### **Flowering:**

October - February

### **Fruiting:**

December - May

### **Threats:**

Not directly threatened, however, it is confined to ultramafic rock and soils, and in some of these locations it can be very uncommon

### **\*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=698](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=698)