



Stenostachys laevis

Common Name(s):

grassland wheatgrass

Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island; only known from Reporoa Bog (North West Ruahine Range). South Island; throughout except Nelson, and Westland. Stewart Island.

Habitat:

Small grass of tussock grasslands, grey scrub, shaded cliff faces, and lake sides. Often in flushes. Occasionally coastal. From sea level to 1300m altitude.

Features:

Perennial grass, forming loose patches, these rooting and shooting freely at nodes. Inflorescences narrow, nodding, on long slender stems (culms). Leaf-sheath 5-10 cm, either covered in curved hairs or hairless. Ligule 0.5-1 mm, prominent, tips lacerated. Leaf-blade 15-25 cm × 1.5-2 mm, flat (often inrolled in coastal plants), thin, with a prominent midrib, hairless or finely hairy. Culms 50-75 cm, nodes inconspicuous, internodes hairless, slender. Inflorescence narrow, slender, 8-15 cm, of 10-25 spikelets > internodes. Spikelets 8-12 mm, of 1-2 florets. Glumes 2, awn-like, 2-6 mm, equal, 1-nerved. Lemma 6.5-8 mm, smooth except for prickle-teeth towards bifid tip, apex either spine-tipped (mucronate) or extended as a short, toothed, awn 0.5-1 mm. Anthers 1.6-2.6 mm. Seed 4 mm.

Flowering:

January to March

Fruiting:

March to May

Threats:

Stenostachys laevis is probably not threatened but it is certainly uncommon, and easily overlooked. Because of this, there are few recent >1980 records.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=776



Caption: Ex. Lake Tennyson

Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft



Caption: Ex. Lake Tennyson

Photographer: G.M. Crowcroft