



## *Stenostachys gracilis*

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

None Known

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

Not Threatened

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands. Uncommon north of the Central Volcanic Plateau

### **Habitat:**

Coastal to montane (0-1000 m a.s.l.). In estuarine habitats, at gully and valley heads, on clay banks and along stream sides in tall forest. Also in shrublands. occasionally found in tussock grassland.

### **Features\*:**

Perennial, stoloniferous, green, glaucous or yellow-green grass forming open to densely tufted, wide somewhat flat-leaved patches with long nodding inflorescences; often very stout in forested areas. Leaf-sheath 50-150 mm, with long (0.5-1.0 mm) hairs irregularly retrorse or erect, occasionally glabrate or glabrous. Auricles to 0.5 mm or minute, scarcely clasping. Ligule 0.3-1.0 mm, erose. Leaf-blade 100-200 x 1.5-2.0 mm, flat, thin, usually with hairs 0.5-1.0 mm or bearing sparse prickly-teeth above and glabrous below; margins glabrous. Culm 0.7-1.2 m long, slender, nodes evident sometimes  $\pm$  geniculate, internodes glabrous. Inflorescence slender, narrow 100-300 mm, glaucous or somewhat powdery greyish white, comprised of 15-40 spikelets > internodes; internodes 2-5 mm but longer at base; rachis prolongation 2-6 mm. Spikelets to 10 mm, of 1-3 florets, on 1.0-1.5 mm stipes in the absence of glumes; rachilla prolongation 1.5-3.0 mm, conspicuously short stiffly hairy. Glumes 0, sometimes 1-2 and awn-like, 0-3 mm, very rarely 5-6 mm above, 1-nerved, prickly-toothed, much less than spikelets in length. Lemma 7-10 mm, prickly-teeth abundant, weakly keeled, infrequently bifid at apex, canaliculated above, tapering to awn 1.5-6.0 mm. Palea 5-7 mm, < lemma, apex usually prolonged or retuse; keels toothed and usually inrolled, Callus short, 0.5 mm, surrounded by abundant short stiff hairs; disarticulation  $\pm$  oblique. Rachilla 1.5-2.5 mm, shortly prickly-toothed. Lodicules 0.75-1.00 mm. Anthers 1.5-2.0 mm, often retained as a remnant surmounting the seed apex. Ovary 1.25-1.40 mm; stigma-styles 1.5-2.0 mm. Seed 4.00-4.25 mm. Flowers mostly cleistogamous.

### **Flowering:**

September - January

### **Fruiting:**

November - May

### **Threats:**

Not Threatened. However, scarce north of the Bay of Plenty and Waikato.

### **\*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=795](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=795)