



Schoenus pauciflorus

Common Name(s):

Bog rush, sedge tussock

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South, Stewart, Chatham and Auckland Islands. Uncommon north of Rotorua.

Habitat:

Coastal to alpine (up to 1800 m a.s.l.). However, mostly montane to alpine in northern two-thirds of its range. Common in damp seepages along cliff faces, in swamps, in seepages within forest, within mires and around lake tarn and stream sides. Sometimes colonises poorly drained pasture.

Features*:

Rush-like sedge up to 1 m tall. Rather variable with respect to colour and stature, ranging from stout dark red plants to flaccid bright green specimens. Rhizome short, hard and lignaceous, up to 4 mm diameter. Culms 0.1-1.0 m tall, 0.5-1.8 mm diameter, densely tufted, caespitose, longitudinally striate, grey-green, wine red to bright green. Leaves reduced to numerous, dark red-purple (rarely green) basal sheaths, the uppermost 40-140 mm long, the mucro much elongated with toothed margins. Panicle 15-30 mm long, more or less elongated, bearing 1-9 spikelets at the tips of erect, slightly scabrid branchlets, the whole subtended by a stiff bract overtopping the panicle. Spikelets 5 mm long, 2-4-flowered, lanceolate. Glumes 4-6, lanceolate, 2-3 lowermost smaller, empty, membranous and colourless or occasionally brown, upper glumes darker brown with pale centres, margins hyaline, without cilia. Hypogynous bristles 6, filiform, almost equal in length to style, scabrid, persistent. Stamens 3. Style-branches 3, style often persistent. Nut 2.0-2.5 mm long, slightly less than 1 mm wide, elliptic-oblong, greenish brown to red-brown, lighter brown at the angles, glossy, smooth.

Flowering:

September - April

Fruiting:

November - June

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=802



Caption: Mount Torlesse
Photographer: Melissa Hutchison



Caption: Hooker valley, January
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth