



## *Triglochin palustris*

### Common Name(s):

marsh arrow grass

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Nationally Critical

### Distribution:

Indigenous. In New Zealand known only from the eastern side of the South Island, where it has been reported from South Canterbury, Northern and Central Otago. Common in the Northern Hemisphere and South America.

### Habitat:

Montane wetlands. Found growing along the sides of slow flowing streams, on tarn and lake margins and in sphagnum bogs.

### Features\*:

Summer green, erect, slender, bulbous herb forming small colonies. Leaves dark green to reddish-green, 50-500(-800) x 0.5-1 mm diam., fleshy, semicircular or slightly channelled in cross-section. Ligules undivided, subacute. Inflorescence arising on a stout peduncle 25-260(-400) mm long; racemose, with raceme more or less equal to peduncle length. Flowers pedicellate, pedicels up to 6 mm long, closely appressed to peduncle axis. Flowers c. 3 mm long, dark green to wine-red. Fruit 80-100 x 1 mm, narrow-linear, with the 3 fertile follicles unkeeled, dorsifixed, partially separating from the base, resulting in an arrow shaped structure.

### Flowering:

December to February

### Fruiting:

December to March

### Threats:

Herbarium records indicate that this species has always been localised. However, it is also easily overlooked. Nevertheless some Canterbury sites have vanished and in some of the Otago sites the species is very vulnerable to weed invasion of its wetland habit. Very few populations occur on protected land, and many are accessible to livestock which greedily eat plants.

### \*Attribution:

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

### References and further reading:

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

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=96](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=96)



**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Flower spike

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