

Centrolepis strigosa

COMMON NAME

centrolepis

SYNONYMS

Desvauxia strigosa R.Br.

FAMILY

Restionaceae

AUTHORITY

Centrolepis strigosa (R.Br.) Roem. et Schult.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

CENSTR

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP, EF, RR, SO, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: EF, RR, SO, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO, EF

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island and South Island. In the North Island known locally from the Kai Iwi Lakes, Glinks Gully and Bayly's Beach (west of Dargaville) to Lake Ototoa (see de Lange 2011). In the South Island known only from near Bluff Hill and Invercargill. Also in Australia.

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland. Growing in open clay, sand or silty places in damp places near lake or pond margins, or on open sand pans within gumland scrub (see de Lange 2011).

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



Kaiwi Lakes. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/01/2011, Licence: CC BY.



Lake Waikare, Kaiwi Lakes. Jan 2011. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Delicate tufted annual 15–70 mm tall. **Roots** fine, fibrous (whole plant easily detached from soil). **Leaves** 10–30 × 0.2 mm, filiform, grey-green to green, hispid the surfaces being covered in long white, rigid, multicellular hairs; apices acicular, otherwise leaves broadening toward a membranous sheath. **Flowering stems** 20–65 × 0.4 mm, much longer than leaves, hispid with very fine somewhat tangled, white hairs. **Glume-like bracts** 2–3, these 3 mm long, green or pinkish-green with a narrow membranous margin, ovate and spreading, covered with long, rigid, multicellular hairs; awns glabrous 1 mm long with an acicular apex. **Pseudanthia** 4–8 in each bract, these almost equal to bracts in length, each with 3 hyaline, unequal, fringed scales, one very much shorter the other two of similar length, sheathing the male and female flowers, **Male flowers** set with 1 per partial inflorescence. **Female flowers** 4–8 per partial inflorescence, connate and superposed in 2 rows, or occasionally appearing spirally arranged. **Styles** not connate. **Seed** 0.5 mm long, brown with a dark tip at each end, obovate-oblong, blunt at the apex, surface finely reticulated.

SIMILAR TAXA

None. A very distinctive and singular species which has little resemblance to the other endemic New Zealand *Centrolepis* species (see Fact Sheets).

FLOWERING

December–February

FRUITING

December–March–(April)

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon, biologically sparse, seasonal annual. Although it has not been reliably reported from Bluff and Invercargill for many years it is probably still present there. It is seasonally abundant at the Kai Iwi Lakes (de Lange 2011).

ETYMOLOGY

centrolepis: Pointed scale

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

Centrolepis was formerly in the family Centrolepidaceae, which was shown by Briggs et al. (2014) to be embedded within Restionaceae. Based on these findings, the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group adopted an enlarged concept of Restionaceae that included Centrolepidaceae (APG IV 2016), which is followed by NZPCN.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (14 August 2006). Description based on Moore & Edgar (1970).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Angiosperm Phylogeny Group. 2016. An update of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group classification for the orders and families of flowering plants: APG IV. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 181: 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1111/boj.12385>.
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- de Lange PJ. 2011. *Centrolepis strigosa* – a rarely seen annual. *Trilepidea* 86: 7–9.
- Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.
- Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/centrolepis-strigosa/>