

# Agrostis oresbia

## COMMON NAME

mountain bent

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

Agrostis oresbia Edgar

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

AGRORE

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island (Raukumara, Ruahine and Tararua Ranges). South Island, North-West Nelson (Lake Aorere and Mt Domett only)

## HABITAT

A subalpine to alpine species frequenting damp seepages and water courses within tussock grassland and on rocky ground, shaded cliff faces or screes, occasionally on river flats.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted or stoloniferous plants 50–250 mm, culms overtopping leaves. **Leaf-sheath** hyaline, light green to light brown, prominently ribbed, smooth, rarely with prickly teeth. **Ligule** 1–4.5 mm, truncate to obtuse, denticulate or entire, glabrous. **Leaf-blade** 20–70 × 1.5–2 mm, flat or folded, undersides smooth, upper prominently ribbed, margins usually smooth, sometimes sparsely to densely, scabrid, apex tapered, blunt, scabrid. **Culm** erect, internodes glabrous. **Panicle** (15–)20–60 mm, open, lax, oblong to pyramidal, with spreading or flexuous branches; rachis smooth, branches and pedicels smooth or scabrid. **Spikelets** 2–2.5(–3) mm, purplish. **Glumes** unequal, acute to acuminate, keel scabrid near apex, margins smooth, sometimes scabrid near apex; lower, 2–2.5(–3) mm, ovate-lanceolate, upper 1.7–2.5(–3) mm, elliptic-lanceolate. **Lemma** 1.5–2 mm, glabrous, faintly 5-nerved, ovate, obtuse; awn (1.5–)2–3 mm, geniculate, slightly projecting beyond glumes. **Callus** with minute hairs. **Anthers** 0.4–0.9 mm.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to the grasses of New Zealand](#)



### SIMILAR TAXA

*Agrostis oresbia* could be confused with *A. magellanica* Lam. but it is a smaller plant in all respects. It is perhaps closest to *A. muelleriana* Vickery from which it differs by its larger, more open, and laxer panicle, and by the glumes which are less scabrid and papillose. *A. oresbia* has a somewhat similar appearance to *A. personata* Edgar, from which it can be distinguished by its intravaginal innovations; awned lemmas; and by the abaxially smooth ligules. Palea 0.5 mm, ovate.

### FLOWERING

Unknown

### FRUITING

Unknown

### LIFE CYCLE

Florets are dispersed by wind and water (Thorsen et al., 2009).

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown but should be easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces

### THREATS

Not threatened but rather a naturally uncommon species of spradic occurrence which is why it has been listed

### ETYMOLOGY

**agrostis**: Greek name for a kind of grass

### ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange June 2005. Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).

### REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 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.

### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/agrostis-oresbia/>