

Chionochloa beddiei

COMMON NAME

Beddie's tussock, Cook Strait tussock

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Chionochloa beddiei Zotov

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

CHIBED

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 42$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: PD, RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: PD, RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (South Wellington Coast from about the Orongorongo River east to White Rock east of Cape Palliser).

HABITAT

Coastal and lowland. Usually on coastal bluffs, cliffs, talus slopes and sparsely scrub-covered promontories, occasionally extending for short distances inland.



Cape Palliser. Photographer: Kelvin Lloyd, Licence: All rights reserved.



Cape Palliser. Photographer: Kelvin Lloyd, Licence: All rights reserved.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Short, shiny tussock with stiff and widely spreading shoots and persistent leaves. **Leaf-sheath** to 150 mm, slightly keeled, pale yellow, persistent, becoming fibrous, margins above with long hairs, apical tuft of hairs to 2 mm. **Ligule** to 0.5 mm. **Leaf-blade** to 600 × 4 mm, flat to U-shaped, persistent, deflexed at collar, abaxially glabrous, adaxially with a weft of short hairs at base, abundant prickle-teeth above; margin with long hairs below, becoming shaggy, hairs mostly antrorse and appressed. **Culm** to 750 mm, internodes glabrous except for short, dense hairs below inflorescence. **Inflorescence** to 150 mm, congested with short branches, bristling with awns; rachis, branches and pedicels short soft hairy. **Spikelets** of up to 5 florets. **Glumes** to 13 mm, shortly awned, < adjacent lemma lobes, prickle-teeth above, otherwise glabrous; lower 1–3-nerved, upper 1–5-nerved. **Lemma** to 6 mm; hairs dense at margin and in all internerves, or sometimes only aside central nerve, > sinus; lateral lobes to 11 mm including strict awn to 8 mm, prickle-teeth adaxially and abaxially and on lemma margins; central awn to 22 mm much deflexed from twisting column to 4 mm. **Palea** to 8.5 mm, produced into two conspicuous narrow processes; prickle-teeth abaxially above. **Callus** to 1 mm, hairs to 5 mm. **Rachilla** to 1 mm. **Lodicules** to 1.75 mm. **Anthers** to 4.5 mm. **Ovary** to 1 mm; stigma-styles to 4 mm. **Seeds** to 3 mm.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

FLOWERING

November–December

FRUITING

December–May

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be difficult. Best grown from fresh seed. Plants should be planted where they are to grow as they resent much root disturbance. Best in full sun, in a freely draining soil or on a stone wall. Dislikes humidity.

THREATS

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a naturally uncommon, regional endemic.

ETYMOLOGY

chionochloa: Snow grass

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available.

ATTRIBUTION

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/chionochloa-beddiei/>