

Chionochloa teretifolia

COMMON NAME

terete-leaved snow tussock

SYNONYMS

Danthonia teretifolia Petrie

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Chionochloa teretifolia (Petrie) Zotov

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

CHITER

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Fiordland and Southland).

HABITAT

Lowland to alpine in grassland and herbfield overlying leached or podzolised hill slope or peaty soils.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

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



Borland saddle, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Burns, Southland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 11/12/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small, sparsely tufted tussock with distinctly pale shoots arising from darkened persistent sheaths, and with deciduous, twisted hairy leaves. **Leaf-sheath** up to 150 mm, pale green, sometimes reddened or purpled, persistent, interribs hairy, apical tuft of hairs to 2.5 mm. **Ligule** to 1 mm. Leaf-blade to 400 × 1 mm, acicular junceous, disarticulating at ligule, abaxially with long (1.5 mm) white, antrorse, hairs aside evident main nerve or between all nerves below, adaxially clothed in dense antrorse short (0.5 mm) hairs becoming sparser; margin with long hairs below becoming smooth above. **Culm** to 500 mm, internodes glabrous. **Inflorescence** to 150 mm, open, pulvinate, long hairy, branches flexuous. **Spikelets** few, solitary, of up to 6 purpled florets. **Glumes** < adjacent lemma lobes; lower to 14 mm, 3-nerved, upper to 16 mm, 5-nerved. **Lemma** to 6 mm, purpled; hairs dense at margins and sparse aside central nerve rarely elsewhere, greater than or equal to sinus; lateral lobes to 6 mm including awn to 3 mm; central awn to 11 mm from twisting column to 4 mm. **Palea** to 8 mm. **Callus** to 1 mm, hairs to 2.5 mm. **Rachilla** to 1 mm. **Lodicules** to 2 mm. **Anthers** to 4.5 mm. **Ovary** to 1 mm; stigma-styles to 2.5 mm. **Seeds** to 2.5 mm.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

December–April

LIFE CYCLE

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

ETYMOLOGY

chionochloa: Snow grass

teretifolia: From the Latin teres 'rounded' and folium 'leaf', meaning terete-shaped leaf. Terete is the opposite to angular and is used in contradistinction when speaking of long bodies, such as stems or leaves.

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available.

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/chionochloa-teretifolia/>