

# Isolepis pottsii

## SYNONYMS

Scirpus pottsii Cook

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

Isolepis pottsii (V.J.Cook) Soják

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

ISOPOT

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, South Island and Chatham Islands.

## HABITAT

A plant of boggy ground. In the northern part of its range virtually restricted to upland (> 500 m a.s.l.) cloud forest, subalpine scrub and the fringes of bogs. Descending to lower elevations in the southern North Island, and South Islands, where it may be found on river banks, or in seepages within lowland forest. On the Chathams it has been collected from restiad bog.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

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



Herbarium specimen: AK 50359. Photographed with permission of Auckland Institute and Museum. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 30/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufts leafy from an ascending rhizome c. 1 mm. diameter. **Culms** 60–400 mm × c. 0.5 mm. **Leaves** 1–4, usually < culms, c. 0.5 mm wide, linear, concavo-convex, sheath membranous with red-purple nerves, orifice truncate. **Inflorescence** apparently lateral, of (1)–4–(6) spikelets; subtending bract 10–40 mm long. **Spikelets** 2.5–4.0 × 1.5–2.0 mm, ovoid or elliptical. **Glumes** c. 1.5 mm. long, lanceolate, acute, dark red, almost black, or pale cream with red markings, keel green, strongly developed, excurrent. **Hypogynous bristles** 0. **Stamens** 1–(3). **Style-branches** 2, or 3. **Nut** c. 1 mm long, slightly > 0.5 mm, diameter, biconvex, rarely trigonous, elliptical, distinctly mucronate, dull yellow to yellow-brown, with minutely reticulate but glossy surface.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with *Isolepis distigmatosa* (C.B.Clarke) Edgar from which it differs in its often strictly erect but more gracile growth habit, by having true leaves, much finer culms and leaves, fewer spikelets and 2–3 style-branches.

## FLOWERING

November–December

## FRUITING

December–April

## LIFE CYCLE

Nuts are dispersed by water and possibly granivory and attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in a damp site, or within a pot, from fresh seed and by the division of whole plants. However, tends to be short-lived and is probably only of interest to native plant specialists.

## THREATS

Not Threatened but not that common either. Probably best regarded as biologically sparse.

## ETYMOLOGY

**isolepis**: From the Greek isos (equal) and lepis (scale)

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson AT, Smith HA. 1986. Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning. Landsman Bookshop Ltd, Buckenhill, UK.

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.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/isolepis-pottsii/>