

# Isolepis reticularis

## SYNONYMS

*Scirpus reticularis* (Colenso) Edgar; *Scirpus inundatus* var. *gracillimus* Cheeseman; *Isolepis inundatus* var. *gracillima* (Cheeseman) W.R.B.Oliv.

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Isolepis reticularis* Colenso

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

ISORET

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane (rarely subalpine). Favouring riparian habitats in lowland forest but also colonising coastal seepages, or seepages within forest, lake and pond margins and occasionally the lagg zone of peat bogs. A common inhabitant of willow carr.


## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

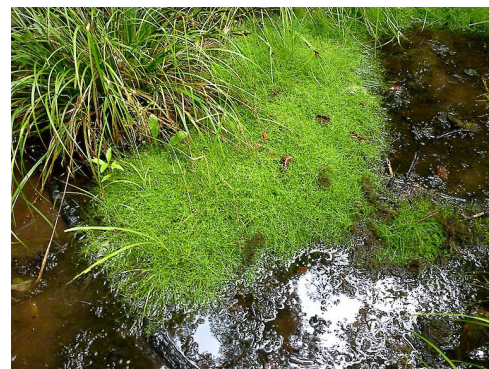
## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rather delicate, finely tufted, drooping plants, loosely carpeting the ground with lax, filiform, light green culms.

**Culms** 40–300 mm long, < 0.5 mm diameter, smooth, compressed. **Leaves** 1–3, similar to culms but usually much shorter, lower most leaf reduced to a sheath 10–15 mm long, red towards the base, often with a fine green mucro c. 0.3–0.5 mm. long. **Inflorescence** apparently lateral, of 1–3–(5) spikelets, often proliferous; bract subtending inflorescence usually much > spikelets, often filiform. **Spikelets** 2.0–5.0–(7.0) × 1.0–1.5–(1.7) mm, oblong-ovate, usually pale green tinged with red. **Glumes** 1 to slightly < 2 mm. long, ovate-lanceolate, acute, pale straw-coloured, rather transparent, or sprinkled with dark red dots, or red-striped or almost black, margins entire, pinched in at the tip below the green, slightly excurrent keel, lateral nerves conspicuous. **Hypogynous bristles** 0. **Stamens** 1. **Style-branches** 3. **Nut** c. 1.0 × 0.5 mm., from  length of glume to c. = glume, elliptical or obovoid, trigonous, pale straw-coloured, almost white, glossy, markedly apiculate, tip not dark.



Gordon Park, Wanganui. Feb 2007.  
Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Gordon Park Scenic Reserve, Whanganui. Jan 2012. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by the flaccid growth habit, extremely fine (< 0.5 mm diameter) bright green culms, greenish spikelets, stamens 1–2 per glume (rarely 3 in the lower portion of spikelet), acute glumes 1–2 mm long, with the tip constricted beside the keel, and cream or white nut. The spikelets in this species are often proliferous.

## FLOWERING

September–December

## FRUITING

October–March

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of whole plants. Once established rather tolerant of a range of conditions but flourishes best in full sun in a permanently damp soil. An attractive pot plant but can become invasive in some situations.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**reticularis:** In a net-like pattern

## 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-reticularis/>