

# Isolepis subtilissima

## SYNONYMS

*Scirpus subtilissimus* (Boeck.) S.T.Blake

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Isolepis subtilissima* Boeck.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

ISOSUB

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP, SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island, South Island: Present also in the Philippines, New Guinea and Australia.

## HABITAT

Mostly montane or subalpine in cloud forest, or around tarns and in within bogs. Extending down rivers into lowland areas especially within the southern part of its range.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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



Herbarium specimen: AK 105038.  
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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small, fine-leaved tufts, from a much-branched, creeping rhizome up to 0.5 mm diameter. **Culms** filiform, 10–50–(90) × 0.2–0.3 mm. **Leaves** 1–4, < or often > culms, c. 0.5 mm wide, setaceous, channelled. **Inflorescence** apparently lateral, usually a solitary spikelet, occasionally 2, subtending bract much > inflorescence, up to 30 mm long. **Spikelets** 1.0–2.5 × 1.0–1.5 mm, ovate, pale green. **Glumes** only slightly > 1 mm long, ovate or elliptical, ± acute, pale cream and membranous, or marked with red, keel green, prominent, occasionally slightly excurrent, margins hyaline. **Hypogynous bristles** 0. **Stamens** 1, occasionally 2–3 in lowermost glumes of spikelet. **Style-branches** 3. **Nut** < 1 mm. long, c. 0.5 mm wide, almost = glume, trigonous and prominently ribbed on dorsal angle, mucronate, pale straw-coloured.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Close to *Isolepis habra* (Edgar) Soják from which it is distinguished by its smaller stature (stems up to 60 mm long), upright tufted habit, usually very dark green culms, and nut which is > 1 mm long.

## FLOWERING

October–December

## FRUITING

November–April

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed, rooted pieces and by the division of whole plants. However, requires cool conditions and dislikes humidity and drought.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## 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-subtilissima/>