

Juncus canadensis

COMMON NAME

tailed-seeded rush, Canada rush

SYNONYMS

Verojuncus canadensis (J.Gay ex Laharpe) Závěská Drábková & Pročková

FAMILY

Juncaceae

AUTHORITY

Juncus canadensis Gay

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

NVS CODE

JUNCAN

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Stiffly upright leafy rush to 90 cm tall, leaves round with internal cross walls (feels like clicks if you hold base of leaf between finger and thumb and slide up), plant green with branched flowerheads made up of many clusters of 5 to 20 pale brown flowers/capsules (fruit).

DISTRIBUTION

Common in Westland, also recorded from Canterbury and once from the Central Volcanic Plateau of the North Island.

HABITAT

Swamps, wet pasture, gravels and drains.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Densely erect tufted perennial. **Stems** 15–90 cm high, with several cauline leaves, distinctly septate internally just below inflorescence. **Leaves** terete transversely septate. Inflorescence variable, (2)–4–12–(18) cm long, with 5–12-flowered clusters at ends of branches and in branch forks.

Tepals 3.5–4 mm long, ± equal, very narrow, rigid, acuminate. **Stamens** 3.

Capsules 3–4.5 mm long, = or slightly > tepals, narrow to a short beak, red-brown. **Seeds** distinctly tailed.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to other tubular septate leaved rushes, but only *J. canadensis* and *J. acuminatus* have septate stems beneath the inflorescence. *J. acuminatus* does not have tailed seeds, has smaller capsules and is usually reddish tinged not bright green.

FLOWERING

Summer



Near Waiouru. Feb 2007. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Near Waiouru. Feb 2007. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown

FRUITING

Autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Seed dispersed by animals, water or contaminated machinery.

YEAR NATURALISED

1936

ORIGIN

North America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, seed or soil contaminant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

ETYMOLOGY

juncus: From the Latin jungere 'to tie or bind', the stems of some species being used to make cord (Johnson and Smith)

canadensis: Of Canada

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Subgenus *Juncus*, Section *Ozophyllum* (Septati) Kirschner (2002: Juncaceae 2)

Proćków et al. (2023) proposed a taxonomic segregation of *Juncus* into six genera based on molecular and morphological evidence. Whilst it has long been recognised that the current circumscription of *Juncus* includes morphologically divergent taxa—reflected in the recognition of numerous subgenera and sections—the consensus view of the NZPCN website taxonomy subcommittee, taking into consideration advice from Australian *Juncus* expert Dr Karen Wilson (NSW Herbarium) and others in Europe is that the generic segregations proposed need further consideration and testing. Accordingly, it has been decided to maintain the current broad circumscription of *Juncus*, but to include all new names as synonyms in factsheets. We thank, in particular, Dr Wilson for her helpful comments.

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Healy and Edgar (1980).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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Kirschner, J. (compiler) 2002. Juncaceae 2: *Juncus* subg. *Juncus*, Species Plantarum: Flora of the World Part 7: 1–336.

Proćków, J., Záveská Drábková, L. 2023. A revision of the Juncaceae with delimitation of six new genera: nomenclatural changes in *Juncus*. *Phytotaxa* 622(1): 17–41.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/juncus-canadensis/>