

# Juncus ensifolius

## COMMON NAME

iris-leaved rush

## SYNONYMS

Verojuncus ensifolius (Wikstr.) Záveská Drábková & Pročková

## FAMILY

Juncaceae

## AUTHORITY

Juncus ensifolius Wickstrom

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Leafy rush to 70 cm tall, leaves flattened an iris-like (sword-shaped), plant blue-green with 1–3 spherical flowerheads made up of many dark-brown to black flowers/capsules (fruit).

## DISTRIBUTION

Scattered and local from Bay of Plenty, Westland and Canterbury.

## HABITAT

Swampy roadsides and riverine wetlands.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Loosely tufted or forming open colonies, less frequently densely tufted; rhizome slender, ± far-extending. **Stems** 15–70 cm high, laterally compressed, almost winged at lower nodes, cauline leaves 2–3. **Leaves** ensiform, ± curved, ± flat, blue-green, longitudinal and transverse septa visible externally, often incomplete. **Inflorescence** of 1–3 large, many-flowered, usually blackish, globose clusters, causing taller stems to incline. **Tepals** 2.5–3 mm long, all ± equal, acute to acuminate. **Stamens** 3–6. **Capsule** c. 3 mm long, > tepals, oblong, shortly mucronate, dark brown to black.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Only *J. ensifolius* and the native *J. prismatocarpus* have flattened multitubular septate leaves. *J. ensifolius* itends to be sward-forming and has 2–3 black globose flower clusters rather than the clumped plants with many-branched inflorescences green or pink flower clusters of *J. prismatocarpus*.

## FLOWERING

Summer

## FLOWER COLOURS

Black, Brown

## FRUITING

Autumn

## LIFE CYCLE

Seed dispersed by animals, water or contaminated machinery.



## YEAR NATURALISED

1940

## ORIGIN

Western 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)

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

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

Pročków 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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<https://docs.niwa.co.nz/library/public/FreInSpec.pdf>

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

Pročków, J., Závěská 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-ensifolius/>