

# Juncus novae-zelandiae

## COMMON NAME

dwarf rush

## SYNONYMS

Verojuncus novae-zelandiae (Hook.f.) Záveská Drábková & Pročková

## FAMILY

Juncaceae

## AUTHORITY

Juncus novae-zelandiae Hook.f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

## NVS CODE

JUNNOV

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island from Te Moehau south, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura.

## HABITAT

Mostly montane to alpine but descending to sea level in more southerly stations. Usually found in open places in mires or in damp peaty turf, rarely in or near running water.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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



S. Borland flats, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Eastern Wairarapa (from a specimen collected by Pat Enright). Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 30/09/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Densely tufted, arising from along, ascending rhizome, usually forming large patches, rarely diffuse. **Stems** 20–150 × 0.5–1.0 mm, heavily branched, creeping and rooting freely at nodes. **Leaves** numerous, both basal and cauline, stems, 0.2–0.8 mm wide, narrow-linear, compressed, almost filiform, septate; sheath  $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$  length of lamina, membranous, with 2 obtuse auricles. **Inflorescence** a single terminal head of 3–5 flowers, very rarely composed of 2–3 branchlets, each terminated by a fascicle of flowers; subtending bract > or » inflorescence. **Flowers** 2–3 mm long, outer tepals acute or acuminate, centrally straw-coloured, reddish brown toward the margins, the inner obtuse, greenish brown with broad, hyaline, membranous margin. **Stamens** 6, equal to or slightly > tepals in length. **Capsule** up to 3 mm long, usually » tepals, oblong-ovoid, mucronulate, pale at first but soon becoming black, surface lustrous.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with *J. antarcticus* and *J. pusillus*. From *J. antarcticus* (with which it may grow) it differs by having septate rather than non-septate leaves, red or greenish brown rather than dark maroon to black tepals and consistently 6 rather than 3–6 stamens. From *J. pusillus* it differs by the lustrous black rather than dull pale brown capsules, and stems which are usually > than the leaves at maturity (in *J. pusillus* the fruiting stems can appear almost sessile, and are often hidden amongst the leaves).

## FLOWERING

October– December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Yellow

## FRUITING

November–July

## LIFE CYCLE

Mucilaginous seeds are dispersed by attachment, wind and water (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed, rooted pieces and by the division of whole plants. Best grown in a partially submerged pot.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**novae-zelandiae**: Of New Zealand

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

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

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (1 September 2006). Description based on Moore & Edgar (1970).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A. 1986. *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning*. Landsman Bookshop Ltd, Buckenhill, UK.

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

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.

Thorsen, M.J.; Dickinson, K.J.M.; Seddon, P.J. 2009: Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.

### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/juncus-novae-zelandiae/> (Date website was queried)

### **MORE INFORMATION**

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