

Juncus sonderianus

SYNONYMS

Juncus sp. aff. *caespiticius*, *Australojuncus sonderianus* (Buchenau)
Záveská Drábková & Pročkův

FAMILY

Juncaceae

AUTHORITY

Juncus sonderianus Buchenau

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Rushes & Allied Plants

NVS CODE

JUNSON

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Leafy rush to 35 cm tall, leaves mostly at the base of the plant, up to 15 cm long and 5 mm wide, with branched flowerheads made up 1–3 clusters of many tightly clumped greenish to chestnut brown flowers/capsules (fruit).

DISTRIBUTION

Common in Northland and northern Auckland.

HABITAT

Wet sandy places.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose, 11–35 cm tall. **Leaves** basal or subbasal, 5–17 × (1.5)–2–5–(7) cm, apex acute. **Inflorescence** clustered, globose head of 1–3–(12) usually 6–12-flowered clusters or 1–3 clusters shortly pedunculate. **Stamens** 6. **Tepals** subequal c. 3.7–4.2 mm long, green-, pale- or red-brown with greenish central band. **Capsule** ovoid, subacute, apiculate, c. 2.5–3 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Very similar to the native *J. caespiticius*, but unlike this species it has several flower heads in an umbel rather than 1 or 2 compact globular heads.

FLOWERING

Spring to early summer

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Green

LIFE CYCLE

Seed dispersed by animals, water or contaminated machinery.



Juncus sonderianus. Photographer: Bec Stanley, Licence: CC BY-SA.



Juncus sonderianus. Photographer: Bec Stanley, Licence: CC BY-SA.

YEAR NATURALISED

1990

ORIGIN

South Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, seed or soil contaminant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

TOLERANCES

Can tolerate brackish water. Frost tolerant.

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

Recognised as present in New Zealand by Kirschner (2002). Subgenus *Juncus*, Section *Graminifolii* 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).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

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

Proćków, 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-sonderianus/>