

# Machaerina articulata

## COMMON NAME

jointed baumea, jointed twig rush

## SYNONYMS

*Cladium articulatum* R.Br.; *Baumea articulata* (R.Br.) Blake

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Machaerina articulata* (R.Br.) Koyama

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

MACATC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia and the New Hebrides. In New Zealand confined to the North Island where it is known from Te Pahi south to the Manawatu River.

## HABITAT

Coastal to lowland (up to 380 m a.s.l.). A common emergent species of swampy lakes, ponds, stream and river margins. Also colonising the lag zone of peat bogs.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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



Pauanui, February. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Pauanui, February. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout, perennial sedge of semi-aquatic and aquatic habitats. **Rhizome** 5–7 mm diameter, usually long and widely creeping and covered with numerous tightly imbricating bracts. **Culms** 0.8–2.0 m tall, 4–6 mm diameter, cylindrical, smooth; hollow except for transverse septa more or less distinct externally in lower part of culm. **Leaves** ± = culms; lamina terete, with distinct transverse septa; apex subacute, pungent; sheaths very long; lowermost leaves reduced to long, chartaceous, grey or light brown, mucronate bracts. **Panicle** 120–300 mm long, pendulous, heavily branched; branchlets in fascicles from sheathing bracts; lowermost bract 60–200 mm long, with lamina septate like the leaves. **Spikelets** exceedingly numerous, 4–6 mm long, deep red-brown, 1–3-flowered, 1–2 flowers fertile, usually not necessarily the lowest. **Glumes** 4–7, ovate or ovate-lanceolate, acute or acuminate, scabrid at the back and on the keel, margins scabrid or with short cilia; lowermost 1–2 glumes empty. **Nut** 2.0 × 1.5 mm, trigonous, elliptical to obovoid, red-brown with paler thickened angles, very shortly stipitate, crowned by the cushion-like pyramidal style-base.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Easily distinguished from all other *Machaerina* species by the terete, externally septate leaves. It has a superficial similarity to *Eleocharis sphacelata* R.Br. from which it differs by the taller, dark green leaves and taller, many-branched drooping paniculate rather than spicate inflorescence.

## FLOWERING

September–December

## FRUITING

November–May (but fruits may be present throughout the year)

## LIFE CYCLE

Nuts are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of whole plants. Best grown on the margin of a pond, lake or slow flowing stream. An attractive though rather large sedge which is best grown in a place where there is suitable space for it. Prefers full sun and does best when planted into water. However, it is also tolerant of dry soils and can be grown in most garden situations.

## ETYMOLOGY

**articulata**: Having joints, jointed

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (8 September 2006). Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Machaerina articulata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/machaerina-articulata/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/machaerina-articulata/>