

Machaerina rubiginosa

COMMON NAME

baumea

SYNONYMS

Fuirena rubiginosa Spreng.; Cladium globeratum R.Br.; Cladium rubiginosum (Spreng.) Domin; Baumea rubiginosa (Spreng.) Boeck.

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Machaerina rubiginosa (Spreng.) Koyama

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

MACRUB

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura and Chatham Islands. Also New Guinea, New Caledonia and Australia.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane (up to 900 m a.s.l.) in most freshwater wetlands; especially favouring low moor peat bogs, the margins of restiad bogs and their burn pools, more rarely on the margins of lakes, tarns and slow-flowing streams where it may grow with *Machaerina arthropylla*.

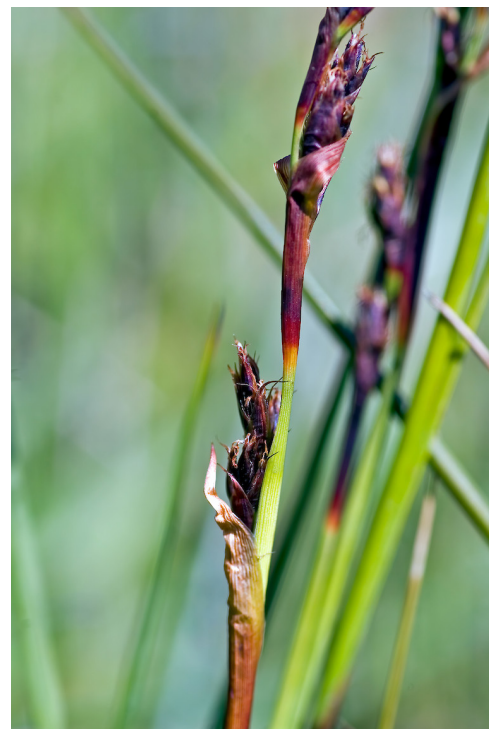
WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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



Cape Terawhiti. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 01/11/2006, Licence: CC BY.



Cape Terawhiti. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 01/11/2006, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glaucous to bright-green, rhizomatous sedge. **Rhizome** 2–4 mm diameter, horizontal, shortly creeping, wiry, fibrous, covered with a loose coat of closely imbricating papery scales. **Culms** 0.3–1.2 m tall, 1.0–2.5 mm, terete, soft, light blue-green, darkly glaucous or bright-green. **Leaves:** lower leaves reduced to grey-brown, membranous, mucronate sheaths; upper leaves 1–3, terete like the culms, < or ± = culms, internally septate, tips subulate, acute. **Inflorescence** a panicle, 60–350 mm long, rounded at the tip, interrupted, with branchlets in distant fascicles, stoutest lateral branchlet arising from lowest spathaceous bract c. 1 mm diameter; bracts subtending upper fascicles acuminate, membranous, red-brown. **Spikelets** 4.5–6.0 mm long, clustered, red-brown, 2–4-flowered, 1 or occasionally 2 flowers fertile. **Glumes** 4–5, ovate, acuminate, membranous, streaked with red, margins ciliate, scabrid towards the tip and on the keel. **Nut** 3.0–4.0 × c. 1.5 mm, elliptic-oblong, pale- or orange-yellow, smooth, trigonous while immature; beak small, grey or black, acute, trigonous, puberulous.

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

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, though plants may take some time to settle. Although it prefers an acidic, permanently damp soil, plants can be grown in free draining soils and once established will tolerate dry spells reasonably well.

ETYMOLOGY

rubiginosa: Rust-coloured

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

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

MORE INFORMATION

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