

Oreobolus strictus

COMMON NAME

comb sedge

SYNONYMS

Oreobolus pumilio var. *strictus* (Bergg.) H.Pfeiff.

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Oreobolus strictus Bergg.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

ORESTR

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands from the Volcanic Plateau and adjacent axial ranges south.

HABITAT

Coastal to alpine (up to 1500 m a.s.l.). Mostly alpine descending to sea level only in the west and southern South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura. A common species of permanently sodden turf, cushion bogs, seepages and mires and poorly drained ground under low shrubs.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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



Herbarium specimen: AK 289107.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial sedge forming loose green or yellowish-green tufts 30–120 mm high. **Stems** much branched throughout, creeping and rooting at nodes. **Leaves** appearing to be but not quite distichous; lamina narrow-linear up to 0.5 mm wide, abaxial surface convex, only the median nerve prominent, adaxial surface channelled, median nerve visible but usually only towards the flattened apex, both surfaces with abundant stomata; sheath 3–5-nerved, nerves often red, apices of sheath truncate or produced upwards and lobed. **Inflorescence** a single spikelet, rarely 2; mature peduncle < or \pm = leaves in length. **Glumes** 3, red-tinged; the outer largest, foliaceous, the inner 2 shorter, more membranous, more or less equal. **Hypogynous scales** < nut, lanceolate, usually white with red markings, or pale brown. **Nut** 1.5 × 1.0 mm, light grey with a narrow, 3-pointed, pubescent, depression at the apex.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with *Oreobolus impar* Edgar, from which it differs by its loosely tufted, creeping, rather than densely packed, erect stems, which root freely at the nodes; leaves with stomata on both surfaces; and hypogynous scales < nut in length. *Oreobolus strictus* differs from *O. pectinatus* Hook.f. by the loosely tufted, creeping habit, longer leaves that are not always arranged distichously; by the median nerve visible on the base of the leaf at the widest part of the lamina; and by the usually red tinged glumes.

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

November–April–(May)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces and probably from fresh seed. However, this species is best grown in a cooler climate or kept in a pot within an alpine house. It is very slow growing.

ETYMOLOGY

oreobolus: Mountain clump

strictus: From the Latin strictus 'upright, stiff'

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and 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.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/oreobolus-strictus/>