

Pentapogon lacustris

SYNONYMS

Deyeuxia lacustris Edgar et Connor

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Pentapogon lacustris (Edgar et Connor) de Lange et L.M.H.Schmid

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

DEYLAC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 56

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, DP, RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island only where it is currently known from two sites, Lake Sylvester, North West Nelson, and from the Tennyson Tarns and the shores of nearby Lake Tennyson.

HABITAT

Inhabiting the margins of kettle holes, tarns and montane to subalpine lakes. Sometimes found in damp seepages within tussock grassland.



Sylvester Lake, Cobb, Kahurangi National Park.
Photographer: Simon Walls, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Sylvester Lake, Cobb, Kahurangi national Park.
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, reddish-green grass up to 300 mm tall. **Culms** erect over topped by dense, cylindrical panicles, these much exceeding leaves at maturity. **Branching** extravaginal. **Leaf-sheath** chartaceous, glabrous, light green to light reddish brown, ribs more prominent above. **Ligule** 2.3 mm, erose, tapering centrally to a fine tip, undersides smooth, upper surface slightly ribbed, sparsely scabrid on ribs; margins finely scabrid, apex cucullate. **Culm** 100–240 mm, erect or geniculate to base, nodes hidden by leaf-sheaths, internodes glabrous. **Panicle** 15–45 × 5–8 mm, cylindrical, compact, dense, glossy amber to purple-green; rachis smooth, branches and pedicels sparsely finely scabrid. **Spikelets** 5–7 mm, purplish green. **Glumes** subequal, 1-nerved, submembranous, elliptic-lanceolate, acute, smooth, keel finely scabrid on upper $\frac{1}{2}$ **Lemma** 4–5 mm, $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ length of glumes, subcoriaceous, smooth below, finely papillose to prickle-toothed above, more or less elliptic, apex shortly bifid; awn 3.5–4.5 mm, from upper $\frac{1}{4}$ of lemma, twisted about twice at base, more or less recurved above. **Palea** c. $\frac{1}{2}$ length of lemma, hyaline, keels thickened, faintly prickle-toothed above. **Callus** hairs 0.3–1.0 mm. **Rachilla** prolongation 0.5–1.0 mm, bearing minute hairs throughout except at glabrous apex. **Lodicules** 0.4–0.5 mm long. **Anthers** 0.30–0.65 mm. **Ovary** 0.6 mm; stigma-styles 1.0–1.5 mm long. **Seed** 2.0 × 0.6 mm, with dehiscent anthers entangled in stigma remnants.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to the grasses of New Zealand](#)

SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with *Pentapogon avenoides* and *Pentapogon youngii*. From *Pentapogon avenoides* (with which it grows) it can best be distinguished by the awn which arises from the upper $\frac{3}{4}$ of the lemma rather than from the base, and by the rachilla which has a glabrous tip rather than a tuft of hairs equal to or slightly greater than the rachilla length. From *Deyeuxia youngii* it can be distinguished by the callus hairs which are at least $\frac{1}{3}$ rather than $\frac{1}{2}$ or more of the length of the lemma, and by the glabrous rather than hairy tip of the rachilla.

FLOWERING

November–January

FRUITING

December–April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and division of whole plants but hard to maintain. Best grown in a pot. Despite its name it does not require damp conditions to thrive. Dislikes humidity.

THREATS

Locally present at Lake Sylvester but very local at Lake Tennyson and the nearby tarns. There is some evidence that pasture grasses and weeds are a threat at the Tennyson tarns.

ETYMOLOGY

lacustris: From the Latin lacus 'lake', meaning growing beside a lake

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange PJ, Schmid LMH. 2022. New combinations in *Pentapogon* for Aotearoa / New Zealand taxa earlier placed in *Deyeuxia* (Poaceae). *Ukrainian Botanical Journal* 79(2): 73–76.

Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Manaaki Whenua Press, Christchurch, NZ. 650 p.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pentapogon-lacustris/>