

Pentapogon lautumia

SYNONYMS

Deyeuxia "Flaxbourne", Deyeuxia "Waima", Dichelachne lautumia Edgar et Connor

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Pentapogon lautumia (Edgar & Connor) P.M. Peterson, Romasch. & Soreng

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

DICLAU

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 70

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: RR, St

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: RR, St

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: St, RR

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Marlborough, mainly found near the mouth of the Flaxbourne River. Also recorded slightly further south from the lower Waimā River).

HABITAT

One population is found mainly on limestone talus, both soil and rocky debris derived from quarrying activities, with a few plants in crevices and on ledges on natural rock faces. The second population is on limestone derived alluvial terraces. All plants are in full light with very little shelter.



Dichelachne lautumia. Photographer: Jan Clayton-Greene, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Fruiting panicle. Photographer: Cathy Jones, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Robust grey-green to orange-green tufts 450–650 mm tall. Branching extravaginal. **Leaf-sheath** chartaceous with membranous margins, more or less distinctly ribbed, glabrous, straw-coloured, or reddish purple, especially in culm leaves. **Ligule** 0.7–1.0 mm long, truncate, erose, sparsely ciliate, undersides scabrid. **Leaf-blade** 60–200 × 15–30 mm, greyish green maturing orange-green or reddish, undersides smooth, upper surface strongly ribbed, prickle-toothed on ribs; margins finely prickle-toothed. **Culm** 300–450 mm long, nodes green to purple with an upper fringe of dense, appressed hairs, internodes glabrous. **Panicle** 100–160 × 10–15 mm, linear-lanceolate, dense, contracted above, longer lower branches in slightly more distant clusters, scarcely spreading, spikelet bearing to base; rachis, branches and pedicels with short hair-like prickle-teeth. **Spikelets** 6–8 mm, green to straw-coloured or suffused with purple. **Glumes** 1-nerved, equal or upper very slightly longer, c. 6 mm, submembranous, elliptic-lanceolate, acuminate, keels finely prickle-toothed. **Lemma** less than or equal to glumes, 6–7 mm, subcoriaceous, papillose, minutely prickle-toothed above, apex bifid with hyaline finely acuminate lobes 0.5–1.0 mm long; awn 8–12 mm, mid-dorsal, or arising from slightly above midway, geniculate, twisted, very hairy below. **Palea** less than lemma, folded, keels prickle-toothed above, apex ciliate. **Callus** c. 0.2 mm long, hairs up to 4 mm long. **Rachilla** 0.2–0.7 mm, glabrous or with a few hairs; prolongation 0.5 mm long. **Lodicules** 0.5 mm, cuneate, ciliate. **Stamens** 3; anthers 1.0–1.5 mm long. **Ovary** 1.0–1.3 mm; stigma-styles 0.7–1.5 mm long, hairs almost to base. **Seed** 3.5 × 1.0 mm, beaked.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the allied *Pentapogon crinitus* by the callus hairs which are equal to or greater than 3 mm (in *D. crinita* they are less than 1 mm); by the shorter awn (8–12 mm cf. 20–30 mm in *P. crinitus*) and by the twisted rather than straight column.

FLOWERING

November–January

FRUITING

December–May

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult to grow. Needs very well drained soil (it does best with the addition of limestone chips), in a sunny location. Dislikes humidity and damp ground. Fresh seed germinates easily.

THREATS

Known from only a few populations. Currently these seem to be secure and stable although the species remains very uncommon.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Manaaki Whenua Press, Christchurch, NZ. 650 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. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pentapogon lautumia* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pentapogon-lautumia/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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