

Pentapogon youngii

SYNONYMS

Agrostis youngii Hook.f., *Calamagrostis youngii* (Hook.f.) Petrie, *Calamagrostis petriei* Hack., *Deyeuxia petriei* (Hack.) Cheeseman, *Calamagrostis youngii* var. *petriei* (Hack.) Petrie, *Deyeuxia youngii* var. *petriei* (Hack.) Cheeseman,

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Pentapogon youngii (Hook.f.) de Lange L.M.H.Schmid, comb. nov.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

DEYYOU

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island only, where it is known from scattered sites from lake Sylvester (North West Nelson) south to Otago.

HABITAT

Lowland to alpine. In forest clearings, tussock grassland, shrubland, boulderfield, on shaded bluffs, and along lake margins.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender tufts 0.3–1.3 m tall. **Leaf-sheath** papery, membranous, ribbed, glabrous or finely hairy, light green. **Ligule** 0.8–2.5 mm, truncate, ciliate to lacerate. **Leaf-blade** 120–350–(600) × 1–4 mm, stiff, flat or rolled, undersides smooth, upper ribbed, finely scabrid on ribs; margins finely scabrid, apex filiform, acute. **Culm** 0.4–1.15 m, nodes conspicuous, internodes usually smooth, sometimes scabrid near panicle. **Panicle** 70–160–(220) × 5–23 mm, linear-lanceolate, shortly and narrowly branched; rachis smooth, branches scabrid, pedicels slightly scabrid. **Spikelets** 4.5–7.5 mm, light green or purplish, crowded. **Glumes** 1-nerved, submembranous, elliptic-lanceolate, acute, scabrid, keel scabrid. **Lemma** (4)–5–6 mm, = glumes, scabrid, elliptic-lanceolate, apex denticulate; awn usually present, (0.5)–1–3 mm, straight, occasionally overtopping lemma apex. **Callus hairs** fine, covering (¼)–½ lemma length. **Rachilla prolongation** 1.5–2.5 mm, surmounted by dense hair-tuft 2–3.5 mm. **Anthers** penicillate.



MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to the grasses of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

The narrow, cylindrical panicle places *Pentapogon youngii* near *Pentapogon avenoides*, *P. quadrisetus*, and *P. lacustris*. From these species it differs by the callus hairs extending for ½ the lemma length, and by the conspicuous hair tuft of the rachilla prolongation reaching the top of the lemma, or almost so. The lemma and rachilla prolongation characters place *P. youngii* close to *P. aucklandicus* from which it differs by the linear-lanceolate panicle, lemma 4–6 mm long, and by the straight awn rarely projecting beyond the glumes. In some plants the callus hairs are reduced, but in these cases the short awn and penicillate anthers are distinctive.

FLOWERING

October–February

FRUITING

October–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Dislikes humid climates. Can be grown from the division of whole plants and fresh seed but plants tend to be short-lived.

THREATS

Naturally uncommon and of sporadic occurrence. In some lowland locations it may be threatened by grassland weeds.

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

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

MORE INFORMATION

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