

# Rytidosperma nudum

## SYNONYMS

Danthonia nuda Hook.f., Notodanthonia nuda (Hook.f.) Zotov

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

Rytidosperma nudum (Hook.f.) Connor et Edgar

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

RYTNUD

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Central Volcanic Plateau (Mt Ruapehu), Ruahine and Tararua Ranges.

## HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine in flushes and bogs.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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



Mount Ruapehu. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 08/02/2012, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Diminutive, diffuse tufted grass, leafy at ends of elongating shoots, rooting at nodes; leaves somewhat acute, more or less equal to culms, dis-articulating at ligule. **Branching** intravaginal. **Leaf-sheath** pale straw-coloured to light grey, glabrous; apical tuft of hairs few, 1–2 mm long. ligule to 0.4 mm. **Leaf-blade** to 80 mm, folded, narrow, rather soft, glabrous. **Culm** to 100 mm, internodes glabrous. **Panicle** small, erect, to 30 mm, of few spikelets on short pedicels; rachis and pedicels slender, closely short-scabrid and some longer hairs at branch axils. **Spikelets** usually 3-flowered, awns barely exerted from glumes. **Glumes** purplish centrally, ovate, obtuse, more or less equal, 3.5–7.0 mm long; lower 3–5-nerved, upper 3-nerved. **Lemma** 2.3–3.5 mm, 5–9-nerved, upper and lower rows of hairs very sparse, upper row usually of small marginal tufts with a few scattered hairs, elsewhere glabrous, margins with scattered hairs; lobes 0.2–0.5 mm, acute to acuminate, not awn-tipped; central awn 1–2 mm long, erect, column scarcely evident. **Palea** 2.4–2.8 mm long, reaching base of awn, sinus, = upper lemma hairs, inter keel glabrous, margins occasionally with a few long hairs. **Callus** c. 0.3 mm long, a few marginal hairs not reaching lower lemma hairs, or marginal tufts denser, slightly overlapping lower lemma tufts. **Rachilla** 0.5–0.8 mm. **Anthers** 0.7–0.8. **Seed** not seen.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by the awn of the lemma 1–2 mm long, and the lemma which is 2.3–3.5 mm, 5–9-nerved, with the upper and lower rows of hairs very sparse, and the upper row usually comprised of small marginal tufts with a few scattered hairs, otherwise glabrous. The lemma margins have scattered hair and lobes 0.2–0.5 mm, which are acute to acuminate. Its relationship to the other indigenous species is not clear though it seems closest to *R. australe* and *R. pumilum*. The small, few-flowered spikelets and absence of seed are useful field characters.

## FLOWERING

November–January

## FRUITING

Not known

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Grows easily enough from the division of whole plants

## THREATS

A very local endemic, rarely collected.

## ETYMOLOGY

**rytidosperma**: Wrinkled seed

**nudum**: Bare

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

Some botanists believe that this uncommon species is a naturally occurring, uncommon, sterile hybrid (B.P.J. Molloy pers. comm.; de Lange et al. 2009; de Lange & Rolfe 2010), especially as the seed of this species has never been seen. However, the recent (2012) discovery of this species growing in abundance in alpine flushes on Mt Ruapehu (P.J. de Lange, N.J. Singers, J.R. Rolfe & M.A.M. Renner unpubl. data), in morphologically uniform populations suggests that it is a functional species. Currently this species is listed as Taxonomically Indistinct in Appendix 3 of de Lange et al. (2009) having previously been listed as “Range Restricted” by de Lange et al. (2004). Clearly this status will need to change and as an interim measure the status of “At Risk / Naturally Uncommon” appended DP [Data Poor], RR [Range Restricted] is here suggested (P.J. de Lange unpubl. data).

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 30 August 2006. Description adapted from Edgar & Connor (2000).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- de Lange PJ, Norton DA, Heenan PB, Courtney SP, Molloy BPJ, Ogle CC, Rance BD, Johnson PN, Hitchmough R. 2004. Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 45–76.
- de Lange PJ, Norton DA, Courtney SP, Heenan PB, Barkla JW, Cameron EK, Hitchmough R, Townsend AJ. 2009. Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand (2008 revision). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 61–96.
- de Lange PJ, Rolfe JR. 2010. New Zealand Indigenous Vascular Plant Checklist. New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, Wellington. 164 p.
- 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): *Rytidosperma nudum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rytidosperma-nudum/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rytidosperma-nudum/>