

Schoenus maschalinus

COMMON NAME

dwarf bog rush

SYNONYMS

Chaetospora axillaris R.Br.; *Schoenus axillaris* (R.Br.) Poir.; *Scirpus foliatus* Hook.f.; *Schoenus subaxillaris* Kük.; *Schoenus foliatus* (Hook.f.) Blake; *Schoenus foliatus* (Hook.f.) Kük.

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Schoenus maschalinus Roem. et Schult.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

SCHMAS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 10

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. Also in Australia, New Guinea as far north as the Philippines.

HABITAT

Coastal to alpine (up to 1400 m a.s.l.). In damp, poorly drained soils in a wide range of habitats from dense forest to river margins, lake sides to alpine seepages and turfs.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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



Shakespeare Bluff, Whitianga, April.
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Shakespeare Bluff, Whitianga, April.
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small, flaccid, tufted or widely spreading green and leafy sedge. **Culms** 0.3–1.0 m long, 0.5 mm diameter, bright green, usually trailing and rooting at nodes, branched toward apices. **Leaves** numerous, 10–35 × 0.5–1.0 mm, almost flat, alternate, spreading, obtuse, margins usually finely toothed towards leaf apex; sheath enclosing $\frac{1}{3}$ of internode, membranous, often red-purple. **Spikelets** 1–3 in the axils of leaves, 2–3 mm long, 1–2-flowered, light brown or reddish purple, sessile or on short, scabrid stalks. **Glumes** 5, ovate-lanceolate, more or less obtuse, 2 lowest smaller, empty, membranous, mucronate 1–2 upper glumes fertile, margins hyaline, median nerve pale green. **Hypogynous bristles** mostly 6, white or yellow-brown, thread-like, slightly greater than or occasionally less than nut, persistent. **Stamens** 3. **Style branches** 3. **Nut** 1 × c. 1 mm, white, elliptic-ovoid, angles green and thickened, apex acute, occasionally with a small trigonous, persistent, style-base.

SIMILAR TAXA

Schoenus fluitans Hook.f. is very closely related to *S. maschalinus*, and terrestrial plants of *S. fluitans* or those left stranded by receding waters in particular have some resemblance to it. From *S. fluitans*, *S. maschalinus* is distinguished by its much smaller, more widely creeping plant (up to 1 m diameter) and wide range of habitat preferences. *Schoenus maschalinus* is invariably bright green (never red), is much a more slender, wispy plant, has 6 rather than no hypogynous bristles, and white rather than a black or brown mottled black nut. Both species share the same chromosome number ($2n = 10$), and nrDNA ITS sequences place them as sister species.

FLOWERING

Throughout the year

FRUITING

Throughout the year

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed, rooted pieces and by the division of whole plants. An attractive ground cover for a damp site. Will grow in full sun or heavy shade. Once established can tolerate mowing

ETYMOLOGY

schoenus: Rush

maschalinus: With flowers in the leaf axils

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/schoenus-maschalinus/>