

# Schoenus nitens

## SYNONYMS

*Chaetospora nitens* R.Br.; *Scirpus nitens* (R.Br.) Boeck., *Schoenus nitens* (R.Br.) Roem. et Schult. var. *nitens*

## FAMILY

Cyperaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Schoenus nitens* (R.Br.) Roem. et Schult.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

## NVS CODE

SCHNTE

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 74$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North, South and Chatham Islands. Also in Australia and New Guinea. In New Zealand abundant from about Whatipu south to Wellington - with scattered populations in the far north (Reef Point, Te Aupouri, and Te Pahi). Scarce in the South Island. Abundant on the main Chatham Island.

## HABITAT

Coastal. A species of damp ground within sand flats, dune swales, and the margins of tidal creeks, brackish swamps, lagoons and ponds.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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



## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizomatous, tufted rush-like sedge. **Rhizomes** lignaceous, up to 1.5 mm diameter, loosely covered by large, membranous, overlapping scales. **Culms** 10–400 mm long, slightly greater than 0.5 mm diameter, dark green, red-green to greenish brown, wiry, erect, striated, unbranched, densely tufted or widely spaced along rhizome. **Leaves** less than culms, upper leaves alternate, rigidly setaceous, semi-terete, margins rarely scabrid towards leaf apex; basal leaves reduced to red-purple, grooved, mucronate sheaths. **Inflorescence** terminal, capitate with crowded sessile spikelets, subtending bract greater than inflorescence. **Spikelets** (2)–4–many, 2–5 mm long, 2–3-flowered. **Glumes** 5–7, bright chestnut-brown with green median nerve, 2–3 lowest smaller, empty. **Hypogynous bristles** 6, usually > nut, yellow-brown and scabrid towards the apex, often branched and basally plumose with long white hairs. **Stamens** 3. **Style branches** 3. **Nut** ovoid to elliptical-oblong, 1.5 mm long, light grey-brown to red-brown, smooth, glossy, surface cells minute (appearing as dimples), angles scarcely thickened.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Schoenus concinnus* (Hook.f.) Hook.f. is somewhat similar but differs by its finer culms, more densely tufted growth habit, smaller stature, often solitary spikelets (there may occasionally be three spikelets), subacute rather than obtuse glumes, and yellow-brown rather than grey-brown to red-brown, larger nut (1.5–2.0 mm cf. 1.5 mm long). *Schoenus nitens* differs from the other rush-like species by having well developed leaves.

## FLOWERING

October–February

## FRUITING

December–July

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from the division of established plants and from fresh seed. Prefers a damp, well drained soil in full sun.

## ETYMOLOGY

**schoenus**: Rush

## 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-nitens/>