

# Stenostachys deceptorix

## SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1994)

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Stenostachys deceptorix* Connor

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, North-West Nelson to Lake Tennyson

## HABITAT

.A monatne species that is usually found in tussock grassland bordering rivers but it is also known from the sides of sinkholes and other similar karst phenomena in the limestone and marble country of north-west Nelson



high river terrace, Haystack Creek, North West Nelson. Photographer: Alice Shanks, Date taken: 25/01/2010, Licence: CC BY-SA.



high river terrace, Haystack Creek, North West Nelson. Photographer: Alice Shanks, Date taken: 25/01/2010, Licence: CC BY-SA.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout perennial, stoloniferous grass with somewhat flaccid, open or compact shoots of flat leaves, and a distinctly pendulous, narrow inflorescence. **Leaf-sheath** 50–100 mm, keel, frequently densely pubescent with short and long hairs or glabrous; becoming fibrous. **Auricles** 0.5–0.7 mm, scarcely clasping, occasionally bearing 1–2 long hairs. **Ligule** 0.3–0.5 mm, very faintly erose. **Leaf-blade** 100–300 × 1–2.5 mm, flat, thin, abundantly covered with fine prickle-teeth on ribs, occasionally with hairs 0.5 mm long between ribs of lower surfaces and sometimes near ligule; margin prickle-toothed. **Culm** stout 0.4–1.9 m, internodes glabrous, glossy; nodes more or less geniculate. **Inflorescence** slender, pendulous, 100–200 mm long, bearing 20–30 spikelets > internodes in length; rachis prolongation 2–6 mm. **Spikelets** up to 15 mm, of 1–3 florets, lustrous; 3.0–3.5 mm. **Glumes** 2, 5–10 mm long, equal, initially narrow canaliculate becoming awn-like, prickle-toothed, closely appressed to floret above, < spikelet. **Lemma** 8–10 mm long, smooth except for prickle-teeth below awn and near callus, sometimes pruinose, rarely bifid at apex; scabrid awn 5.0–6.5 mm. **Palea** 8–10 mm, greater than or equal to lemma; apex prolonged or retuse, ciliate; keels toothed. **Callus** short, surrounded by short stiff hairs; disarticulation flat. **Rachilla** 1.8–2.0 mm, bearing abundant stiff hairs. **Lodicules** 0.7–0.8 mm long. **Anthers** 3.0–3.5 mm long. **Ovary** 0.75–1.00 mm; stigma-styles to 2.5 mm. **Seed** 5.0–5.5 mm long. **Flowers** open or cleistogamous.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## SIMILAR TAXA

Close to *S. laevis* (Petrie) Connor from which it is distinguished by the long awned rather than mucronate or shortly awned lemma which is only rarely rather than normally laterally toothed at the apex, and by the prolonged or retuse rather than bifid palea apex.

## FLOWERING

November–January

## FRUITING

December–May

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and division of whole plants. An attractive and somewhat unusual grass that does well in a sunny, well drained site. It does not like humidity.

## THREATS

Not Threatened. Still rather poorly known but appears to be locally common in parts of north-west Nelson. It may be bettered rated Sparse because it has been found near Lake Tennyson as well.

## 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.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/stenostachys-deceptorix/>