

Stenostachys enysii

SYNONYMS

Agropyron enysii Kirk, *Elymus enysii* (Kirk) Á.Löve et Connor, *Asprella aristata* Petrie, *Agropyron aristatum* Cheeseman; *Australopyrum enysii* (Kirk) Connor

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Stenostachys enysii (Kirk) Barkworth et S.W.L.Jacobs

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

AGRARI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island only Nelson, then east of the main divide from Marlborough to Canterbury.

HABITAT

Montane, subalpine to alpine (up to 1800 m a.s.l.), usually in shaded sites such as in and around boulders under rock overhangs, or in low scrub. Also in flushes within tussock grassland.



Australopyrum enysii. Photographer: Alan Stewart, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Lake Tennyson. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 27/01/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, bronze-coloured, flat-leaved grass. **Culm** slender, drooping, inflorescence often hidden in foliage. **Leaf-sheath** 60–80 mm, covered in long hairs, these retrorse, erect or pubescent. **Ligule** 0.5–0.75 mm. **Leaf-blade** 200 × 2–4 mm, flat, soft, upper surface densely retrorse hairy or glabrous, undersides antrorsely prickle-toothed, margin prickle-toothed. **Culm** 250–800 mm. **Inflorescence** 50–130 mm, with 10–18 compact spikelets. **Spikelets** 10–16 mm, shining. **Glumes** about equal, narrow 6–9 mm, 1–3-nerved, scabrid, becoming awn-like, margin prickle-toothed. **Lemma** 7–10 mm, > palea, glaucous, apex bifid, awn 1–3.5 mm, indented at base. **Palea** 6–9 mm, apex bifid. **Rachilla** 1–2 mm flared near apex. **Callus** 0.25 mm, blunt, surrounded by minute hairs. Description adapted from Edgar & Connor (2000).

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to the grasses of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

Well marked from other New Zealand wheat grasses, and distinguished from these by the small, close set, few-flowered, glossy spikelets, and bifid palea and lemma apices. Rare, sterile hybrids (*Elymus ×wallii*) are formed between it and *Anthosachne solandri*.

FLOWERING

No information available

FRUITING

No information available

LIFE CYCLE

Florets are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and division of whole plants. Dislikes humid climates and can be tricky to flower at low altitudes.

THREATS

Not Threatened. However old herbarium specimens suggest that it was once more widespread at lower elevations, and once grew in more open sites, places which are now dominated by exotic grasses and weeds.

ETYMOLOGY

ensyii: Named in honour of John Davies Enys (1837–1912), a Cornish geologist, biologist and farmer, who owned Castle Hill Station in Canterbury from 1867 to 1891.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange May 2004. Aadapted from Edgar & Connor (2000).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Barkworth ME, Jacobs SWL. 2011: The Triticeae (Gramineae) in Australasia. *Telopea* 13: 37–56.
Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Manaaki Whenua Press, Christchurch, NZ. 650 p.
Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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