

Isolepis praetextata

SYNONYMS

Scirpus praetextatus Edgar

FAMILY

Cyperaceae

AUTHORITY

Isolepis praetextata (Edgar) Soják

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Sedges

NVS CODE

ISOPRA

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (south Wellington coastline), South Island (Westland, Fiordland, Southland), Stewart Island/Rakiura, Snares Island, Campbell Islands, Auckland Islands and Chatham Islands.

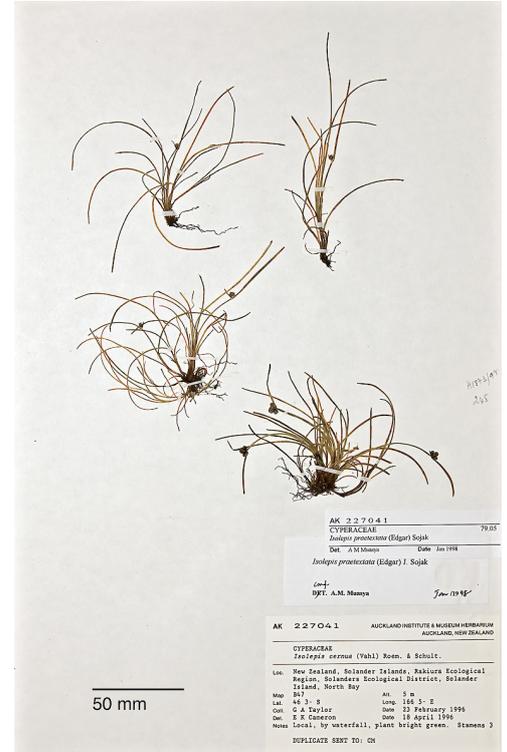
HABITAT

Coastal banks, boulder falls and turf or in seepages. Sometimes on damp ground under coastal scrub and forest.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



Herbarium specimen: AK 227041.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted perennial, often prostrate or drooping, from a slender ascending rhizome c. 0.5 mm in diameter. **Culms** 30–300 × 0.5–1.0 mm; 1–2 basal bracts per culm, membranous, grey-brown or sometimes red-purple. **Leaves** (1)–2–3–(4) per culm, shorter than or equaling culms; sheath often streaked with red-purple. **Inflorescence** c. (3)–4–5 mm high and (3)–5–9 mm broad, usually almost semicircular in outline, of 2–5 ovate, obtuse, close packed spikelets, each usually dark red-purple, almost black below and green above to grey-brown later, rarely entirely grey-green; subtending bract much exceeding inflorescence, up to 10 cm long, rigid, as wide as a foliage leaf, red-purple at base, sometimes a second shorter subtending bract is present. **Glumes** 2.0–2.5 mm long, lanceolate, acute, membranous, tinged with red-purple, keel very thick, green, slightly excurrent. **Stamens** 3 in lower glumes, to 2–1 above. **Style branches** 3. **Hypogynous bristles** 0. **Nut** about half the length of the glume, c. 1.0 × 0.5 mm, trigonous, with angles slightly thickened, elliptical, smooth, pale cream, shortly stipitate and apiculate.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to large, leafy forms of *Isolepis inundata* R.Br. but differing by the distinctly more leafy habit, much longer bract subtending the inflorescence; usually (1)–2 rather than 1–(2) stamens per glume, and by the glumes lanceolate, acute and strongly keeled, rather than ovate, obtuse and less prominently keeled.

FLOWERING

October–January

FRUITING

December–April

LIFE CYCLE

Nuts are dispersed by water and possibly granivory and attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants. Requires a permanently moist, acidic soil to flourish. Best grown in partial to full shade.

ETYMOLOGY

isolepis: From the Greek isos (equal) and lepis (scale)

praetextata: Bordered with purple

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson AT, Smith HA. 1986. Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning. Landsman Bookshop Ltd, Buckenhill, UK.

Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 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.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/isolepis-praetextata/>