



Genus-species: *Juncus acutus*

Authority: L., 1753

Subordinate taxa: -

Synonyms and authority: -

Common name: sharp rush

Section: Juncus

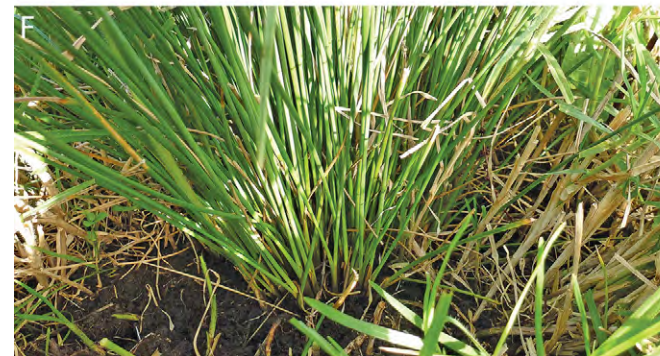
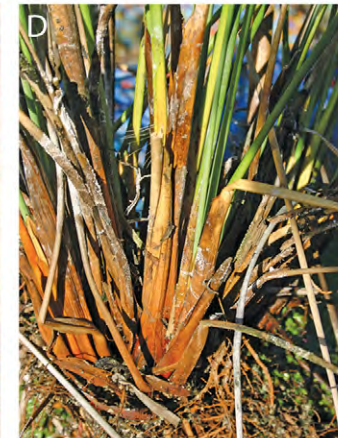
Threat status (2012): Naturalised

NZ distribution: Coastal areas in Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Manawatu

Habitat: Wet and seasonally dry sandy areas.

Identification features: A prickly upright rush forming dense clumps up to 1 m tall. Stems are round in shape, smooth and light green in colour. **Leaves:** look similar to stem, are round and have a very sharp point. **Flower heads:** in a dense cluster near the end of each stem. **Capsules:** large, 4.5-5 mm long, egg shaped and reddish-brown to brownish-orange in colour. Seeds have distinct tails. **Tepals:** much shorter than capsule.

Similar species: No other rush has a combination of leaves similar to the stem with sharp pointed tips and large (> 4 mm) red-brown to orange capsules in a dense clustered head. All Juncus in the section Juncotypus have leaves reduced to basal sheaths whereas Juncus in the section Juncus (*J. acutus* and *J. kraussii*) have leaves similar to stems.



A- habitat, B- flower heads, C- capsules and tepals, D- base of plant, E- sharply pointed stem tip, F- stems and leaves are the same, only stems have flower heads at the tip.