



**Genus-species:** *Juncus pauciflorus*

**Authority:** R.Br., 1810

**Subordinate taxa:** -

**Synonyms and authority:** *Juncus gunnii* Hook.f. (1858), *Juncus pauciflorus* var. *gunnii* (Hook.f.) Buchenau (1890)

**Common name:** -

**Section:** Juncotypus

**Threat status (2012):** Native, Nationally Vulnerable

**NZ distribution:** Uncommon but scattered in N & SI, probably most abundant on Great Barrier Island

**Habitat:** Coastal to lowland in damp ground and hollows under light scrub, in pasture, swamp margins or within coastal forest.

**Identification features:** Open clumps spreading widely from the base up to 1 m tall with sprawling almost floppy smooth, dark-green stems less than or equal to 2 mm wide. **Pith:** when stem is split length ways, pith is continuous (without holes). **Leaves:** absent, but has very short leaf like appendages at the base of each stem that are conspicuously dark red-brown in colour. **Flower heads:** open with only a few flowers forming one cluster close to the stem and one or more upon a slender curved branchlet. **Capsules:** 2.5-3.5 mm long, egg shaped, light brown to red-brown, often very dark towards apex. **Tepals:** usually distinctly shorter than the tepals.

**Similar species:** The rather widely spreading, very thin, loose almost floppy bright-green stems and slender, flexible branchlets are especially distinctive of this species. May be confused with *J. pallidus* or *J. procerus* which both differ in having extremely robust stems greater than 3 mm wide.



Herbarium images. A- whole plant , B,C&E- flower heads, D- flower head showing close up of capsules and tepals, F- creeping rhizome. (Images A, C, D, E, F and the title banner image supplied by Allan Herbarium, CHR copyright, Landcare Research. Photo B supplied by the Auckland Museum Herbarium)