



**Genus-species:** *Juncus usitatus*

**Authority:** L.A.S.Johnson, 1963

**Subordinate taxa:** -

**Synonyms and authority:** -

**Common name:** -

**Section:** Juncotypus

**Threat status (2012):** Native, non threatened

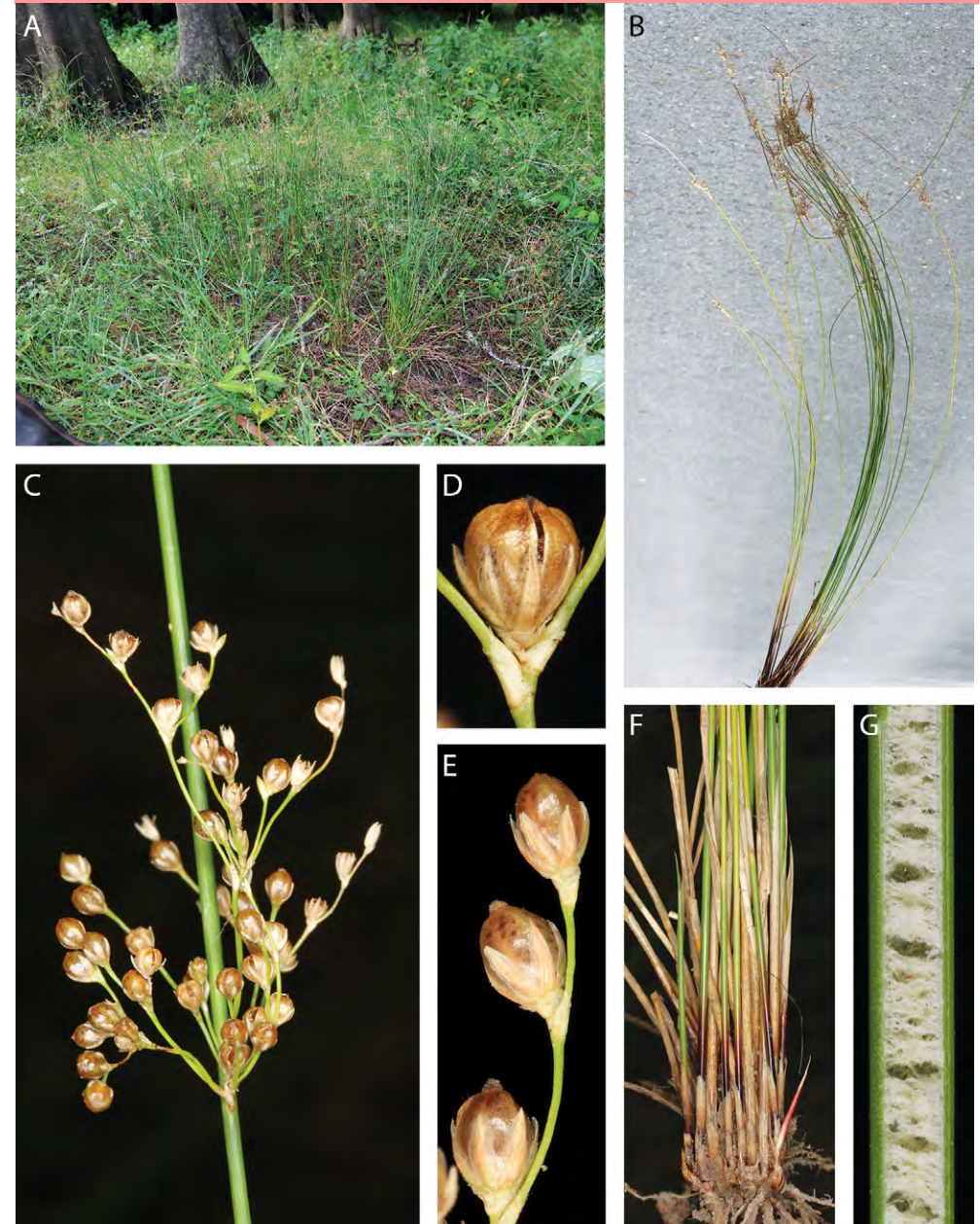
**NZ distribution:** Common in Northland and Auckland, scattered further south in North Island, also in Westland and Canterbury in South Island.

**Habitat:** Coastal to lowland. Often on offshore islands. Usually in open ground or shrubland, more rarely under tall forest.

**Identification features:** Densely tufted, clump-forming and upright rush. Stems are usually thin, bright green to blue-green and ridged. **Pith:** when stem is split length ways, pith has distinct holes.

**Leaves:** absent, reduced to basal sheaths which are red-brown and glossy at the base. **Flower heads:** openly spreading with slender branchlets and evenly spaced small flowers. **Capsules:** 1.5-2 mm long, pale brown, shining and round. **Tepals:** of similar length to capsules.

**Similar species:** The thin, wiry, usually bright-green stems, and widely, evenly spaced flowers/capsules on long spreading branchlets are distinctive for this species. Could be confused with *J. subsecundus* which differs by grey-green stems and capsules which are consistently greater than 2 mm long (rather than less than or equal to 2 mm).



A- habitat, B- whole plant, C- flower heads, D- mature capsule, E- capsules and tepals, F- basal sheaths, G- interrupted pith.