



**Genus-species:** *Juncus acuminatus*

**Authority:** Michx., 1803

**Subordinate taxa:** -

**Synonyms and authority:** -

**Common name:** sharp-fruited rush

**Section:** Ozophyllum

**Threat status (2012):** Naturalised

**NZ distribution:** Common throughout the North Island and northern South Island, usually lowland

**Habitat:** Margins of flowing and still water bodies, drains and wet pasture.

**Identification features:** Upright leafy rush to 80 cm tall. Plant reddish in colour. **Leaves:** tubular with internal cross walls (feels like it clicks if you hold base of leaf between finger and thumb and slide up). **Flower heads:** branched and made up of many clusters of 6 to 10 light brown flowers/capsules at the end of branches. **Capsules:** 2.5-3.5 mm long, egg shaped shortly beaked and straw coloured brown. **Tepals:** equal or slightly greater to length of capsule.

**Similar species:** Similar to other tubular septate leaved rushes, but only *J. acuminatus*, *J. brachycarpus* and *J. canadensis* have have cross walls visible in the stems beneath the flower head. *J. canadensis* has tailed seeds, larger capsules, is more densely upright, lacks the reddish tinged appearance and the leaf sheath is swollen. *J. brachycarpus* has spherical flower heads.



A- habitat, B- whole plant, C- flower heads, D- capsules and tepals, E- cross walls below flower head, F- leaves with externally visible cross walls, G- base of plant.