



Genus-species: *Juncus polyanthemus*

Authority: Buchenau

Subordinate taxa: -

Synonyms and authority: -

Common name: -

Section: Juncotypus

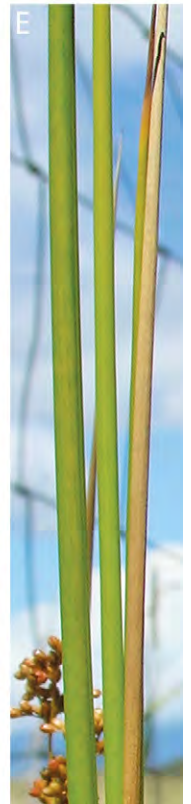
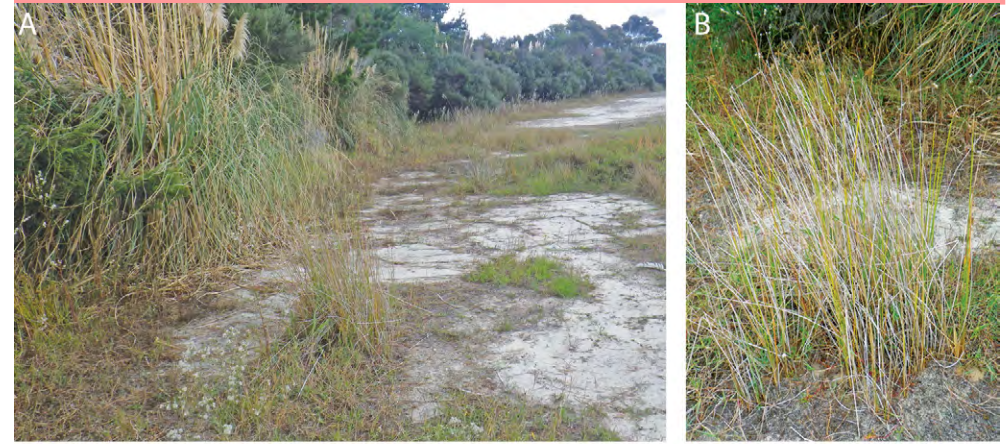
Threat status (2012): Native, Coloniser

NZ distribution: Two collections from Karikari Peninsula, Northland and near Palmerston North.

Habitat: Coastal swamps and wet pastures in E Australia and New Caledonia. One NZ collection was made from a swamp forest remnant, the other was on an iron pan lake margin.

Identification features: Dense tufted, leafless rush up to 145 cm tall. Stems are soft, green and 4-10 mm in diameter. **Pith:** when stem is split length ways, pith has distinctive large holes. **Leaves:** absent, reduced to basal sheaths that are dark chestnut-brown and glossy at the base. **Flower heads:** 3-10 cm long, an open cluster with flowers evenly spaced on branchlets. Capsule 1.8-2.5 mm long and golden-brown in colour. **Tepals:** equal or slightly less than length of capsules.

Similar species: Not commonly found in New Zealand. A robust leafless rush, with an open flower head with evenly spaced flowers, and glossy chestnut-brown basal sheath. Unlike other leafless species.



A- habitat, B- whole plant, C&D- flower heads, E- stems, F- capsules and tepals, G- basal sheaths. (Images C, D, E, F and title banner supplied by Forest and Kim Starr)