



Genus-species: *Juncus procerus*

Authority: E.Mey., 1828

Subordinate taxa: -

Synonyms and authority: *Juncus pallidus* var. *triandrus* Cheeseman (1925)

Common name: giant rush

Section: Juncotypus

Threat status (2012): Naturalised

NZ distribution: Scattered in Wellington and SI, locally common on Stewart Is. Old collections from Auckland.

Habitat: Damp rushland and forest margins.

Identification features: Very robust tufted, leafless rush up to and occasionally exceeding 2 m tall. Stems grey-green in colour and 2-4.5 mm diameter. **Pith:** when stem is split length ways, pith has distinctive large holes. **Leaves:** reduced to basal sheaths which are dark red-brown or black, glossy at the base. **Flower heads:** an open cluster with flowers evenly spaced on branchlets. 3-10 cm long. **Capsules:** 1.8-2.5 mm long, golden-brown. **Tepals:** similar or shorter in length to capsules.

Similar species: A very robust leafless rush, with an open flower head with evenly spaced flowers, and glossy chestnut-brown basal sheath. Only *J. pallidus* approaches the same size but this species has grey-green stems and continuous pith.



A- habitat, B- whole plant, C- flower head, D- capsules and tepals, E- basal sheaths, F- interrupted pith. (Images B, C, D, E & F supplied by Marilyn Gray, Yarra Ranges Council, Victoria, Australia)