



Genus-species: *Juncus sarophorus*

Authority: L.A.S.Johnson, 1963

Subordinate taxa: -

Synonyms and authority: -

Common name: fan-flowered rush

Section: Juncotypus

Threat status (2012): Native, non threatened

NZ distribution: Widespread in the North, South, Stewart, Campbell and Chatham Islands.

Habitat: Coastal to lowland in damp, open ground. Often in pasture or on the margins of coastal wetlands, and along river flats.

Identification features: Densely tufted forming stiff blue-green clumps. Stems tightly clumped and erect near base but usually drooping from the upper half to one third. Stems finely grooved. **Pith:** when stem is split length ways, pith has distinct holes. **Leaves:** absent, reduced to basal sheaths at the base of stems which are usually black or dark red-purple in colour. **Flower heads:** many flowers clustered together as dense fan-shaped head of very pale brown or cream flowers. **Capsules:** oblong, from >1.5-2 mm long. **Tepals:** similar length to capsules.

Similar species: Easily distinguished by the combination of dense, tussock forming habit, blue-green, drooping stems and compact, many-flowered, fan shaped flower heads. Most similar to *J. inflexus* and *J. flavidus*. *J. inflexus* differs by the open rather than dense fan-shaped flower heads, by the flower head not being held close to the stem, and dark brown to black rather than light-brown capsules 2.5-3.5 rather than 1.5-2 mm long. *J. flavidus* differs by pale rather than dark red-brown basal sheaths.



A- habitat, B- flower head, C-capsules and tepals, D- stems finely grooved, E- basal sheaths, F- interrupted pith.