



**Genus-species:** *Juncus vaginatus*

**Authority:** R.Br., 1810

**Subordinate taxa:** -

**Synonyms and authority:** -

**Common name:** -

**Section:** Juncotypos

**Threat status (2012):** Naturalised

**NZ distribution:** Two collections from Wairarapa.

**Habitat:** Damp to wet habitats.

**Identification features:** Leafless rush up to 1.4 m tall, with yellow green stems. **Pith:** when stem is split length ways, pith is continuous (without holes). **Leaves:** absent, reduced to basal sheaths which are deep yellow-brown to brown and dull at the base. **Flower heads:** open with, branchlets of differing lengths (7-17 cm long), flowers clustered in groups on branchlet tips. Capsule 2.8-3.3 cm long, golden brown. **Tepals:** often but not always greater in length to capsules.

**Similar species:** Can be distinguished from all other leafless rushes by the open branched flower heads with clusters of flowers on branchlet tips. Only collected twice in New Zealand.



Herbarium images. A- whole plant, B- open branched flower head with flowers clustered at branchlet tips, C- stems with arrow indicating continuous pith, D&E- flower head showing close up of capsules and tepals, F- basal sheaths present. (Photo B and the title banner image supplied by the Auckland Museum Herbarium. Images A, C, E F supplied by Allan Herbarium, CHR copyright, Landcare Research. Photo D supplied by the Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania)