



**Genus-species:** *Juncus bufonius*

**Authority:** L., 1753

**Subordinate taxa:** var. *bufonius*, var. *congestus* Wahlenb. (1820), var. *parviflorus* Aschers. et Graebner (1904).

**Synonyms and authority:** -

**Common name:** toad rush

**Section:** Tenageia

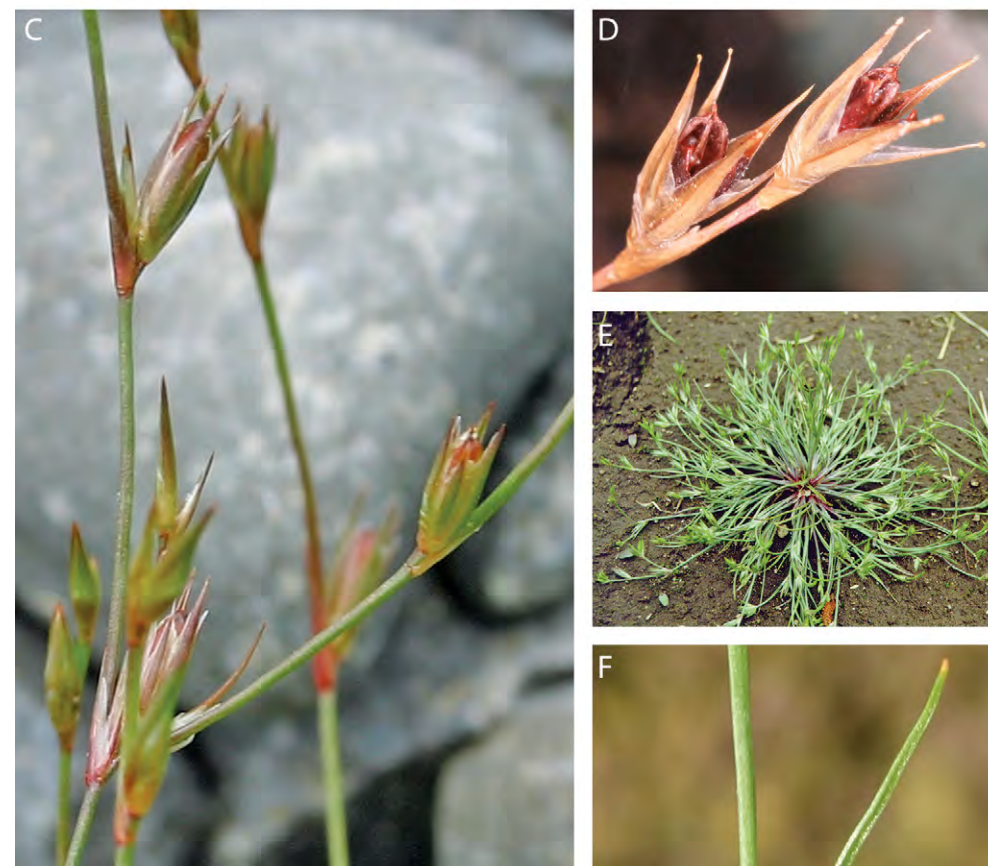
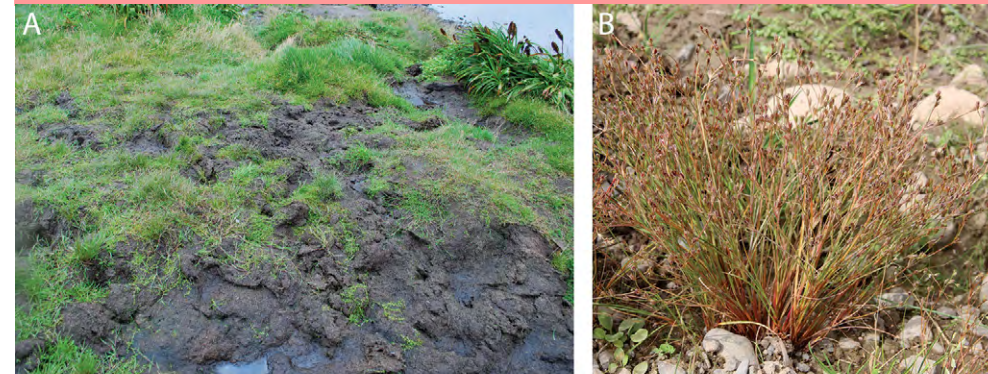
**Threat status (2012):** Naturalised

**NZ distribution:** Widespread and common throughout.

**Habitat:** Open disturbed sites, from dry to wet, sandy to clay, including gardens, cultivated land, ditch banks, gutters and road verges.

**Identification features:** Small tufted and bushy rush up to 15 cm tall. Either light green, or reddish in colour in open sites. Easily pulled from the soil. Much of the mature plant (often 2/3) is comprised of the flower head. **Leaves:** soft, hair-like, mostly basal. **Flower heads:** widely branched with flowers either individual or in 2-7 flowered clusters. **Capsules:** 3 mm. **Tepals:** slightly longer than capsules. **Note:** There are three varieties recognised in New Zealand: var. *bufonius*, flowers are solitary in the flower head, tepals 4-6-(8mm) long; var. *congestus*, flowers are grouped in clusters of 2 - 7, tepals are 6-9mm long; and var. *parviflorus*, flowers are solitary in the flower head, tepals 4mm long.

**Similar species:** Most similar to *J. tenuis*, but *J. tenuis* is hard to pull from the soil and has a smaller flower head (less than 2/3 of the plant). *J. capitatus* is easy to pull up, but this has a single (rarely 2 or 3) flowerhead of 3-8 flowers, and channelled leaves.



A- habitat, B- whole plant, C- flower head, D- capsules and tepals, E- whole plant (var. *parviflorus*), F- stem with leaf (right).