**Genus-species:**  
*Juncus conglomeratus*

**Authority:**  
L., 1753

**Subordinate taxa:**

**Synonyms and authority:**

**Common name:** soft rush

**Section:** Juncotypus

**Threat status (2012):** Naturalised

**NZ distribution:** Scattered throughout the SI

**Habitat:** Lake margins, roadside drains and wet pasture.

**Identification features:** Upright clump-forming leafless rush to 80 cm tall, with tall cylindrical stems with visible ridges. **Leaves:** absent. **Pith:** when stem is split length ways, pith is entire with no obvious holes. **Flower heads:** single and tightly clustered, 10 mm across, near the end of each stem, made up of many reddish-brown flowers. Stem is swollen behind the flower head. **Capsules:** flattened at top and are a shiny reddish brown. **Tepals:** pale with a brown central stripe, and shorter than length of capsule.

**Similar species:** Similar to other tall leafless rushes but has a dense single flower cluster. Most similar to *J. effusus* var. *compactus* from which it differs with a swelling of the stem behind the flower head and conspicuous ridges on the stem beneath the flower head.