



Genus-species: *Juncus distegus*

Authority: Edgar, 1964

Subordinate taxa: -

Synonyms and authority: -

Common name: two-tiered rush

Section: Juncotypus

Threat status (2012): Endemic, non threatened

NZ distribution: Widespread and common throughout. Also in Chatham Islands.

Habitat: Often fringing swamps, and in cloud forest common along board walks. Also in drier hill country and in tussock grassland. Tending to favour poorly drained clay soils.

Identification features: Small, stiff clumps with wiry (tough) dull green or reddish stems. **Pith:** when stem is split length ways, pith has small distinct holes. **Leaves:** absent. **Flower heads:** two small clusters 10mm wide, one pressed to side of stem and the other at the end of a longer, slender, branchlet. **Capsules:** 2.5-3 mm long, broad and shiny chestnut-brown, often with very dark brown tip. **Tepals:** often shorter in length than capsule.

Similar species: *J. filicaulis*, which differs by having flower heads usually in a single cluster, and capsules more or less equal in length rather than greater than the tepals. The stems of *J. filicaulis* are blue or grey-green rather than green to red-green.



A- habitat, B- flower heads, C,D- capsules and tepals, E- stems, F- interrupted pith, G- basal sheaths.