



**Genus-species:** *Juncus effusus*

**Authority:** L., 1753

**Subordinate taxa:** var. *effusus*, var. *compactus* Lej. et Courtois (1831)

**Synonyms and authority:** *Juncus communis* E.Mey. (1819) (nom. illegit.), *Juncus luxurians* Colenso (1886)

**Common name:** soft rush

**Section:** Juncotypus

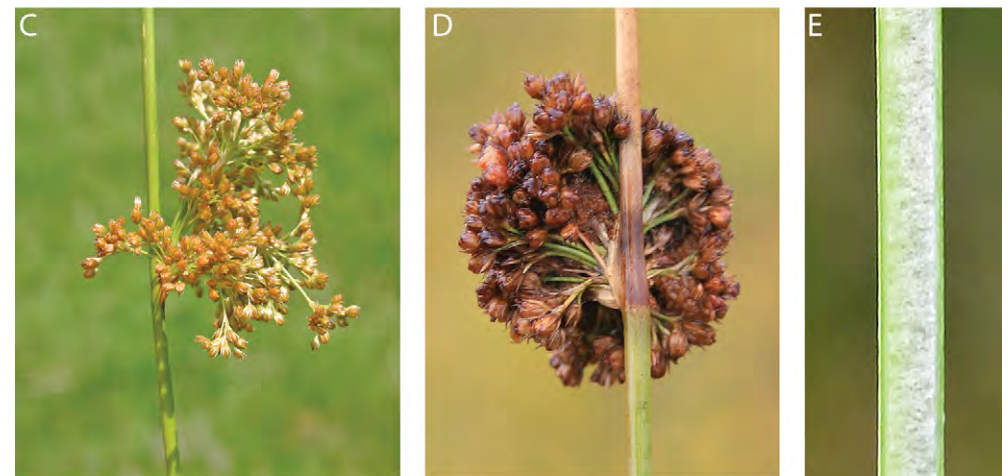
**Threat status (2012):** Naturalised

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

**Habitat:** Wet pasture and a wide range of wet habitats, including peaty areas.

**Identification features:** Upright clump-forming leafless rush to 1.2 tall, with tall tubular stems. Stems tapering from a broad base and are smooth, shiny and are dark to yellow-green in colour. Easily broken or compressed between finger and thumb. **Pith:** when stem is split length ways, pith is continuous (without holes) and spongy. **Leaves:** absent. **Flower heads:** branched with many evenly dispersed flowers clustered near the end of each stem. Made up of many light brown flowers/capsules. **Capsules:** 2-3 mm long, oval, flattened on top and a shiny pale brown. **Tepals:** usually longer than length of capsule. **Note:** In New Zealand there are two varieties of *J. effusus*. *J. effusus* var. *compactus* has a densely crowded, round flowerhead.

**Similar species:** Similar to other tall leafless rushes, but has an open flower head with the lower branches drooping down, no expansion of stem behind the flower head and cobwebby continuous pith in the stem. Most similar to *J. conglomeratus* which has a swelling of the stem behind the flower head and ridges on the stem below the flower head. Also similar to *J. continuus* which differs in the lowest flower head branches do not point downward.



A- habitat, B- whole plant, C- flower head of *J. effusus* var. *effusus*, D- flower head of *J. effusus* var. *compactus*, E- continuous pith, F- basal sheath, G- base of plant.