



**Genus-species:** *Juncus ensifolius*

**Authority:** Wikstr., 1823

**Subordinate taxa:** -

**Synonyms and authority:** -

**Common name:** iris-leaved rush

**Section:** Iridifolii

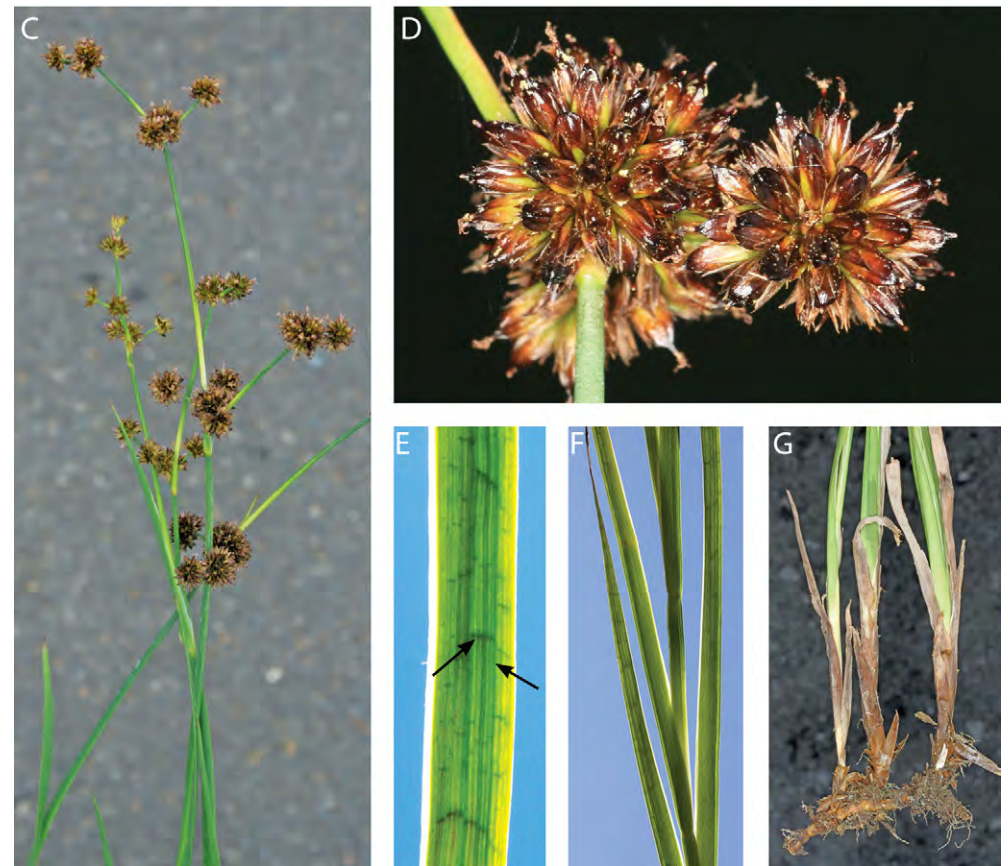
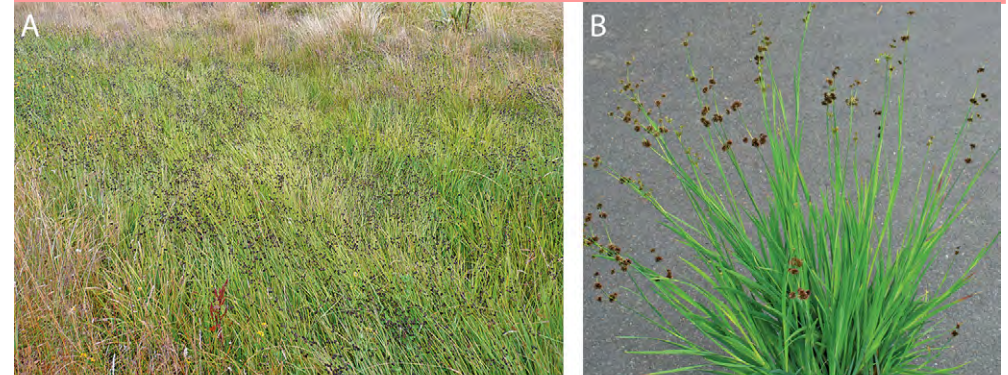
**Threat status (2012):** Naturalised

**NZ distribution:** Rotorua and Pureora south to Westland and Canterbury

**Habitat:** Swampy roadsides and riverine wetlands.

**Identification features:** An upright blue-green, loosely tufted rush growing up to 70 cm tall with long creeping rhizomes. **Leaves:** flattened and iris-like (sword-shaped), with prominent vertical and horizontal veins. **Flower heads:** 1 to 3 large spherical shaped flowerheads made up of many dark-brown to black flowers/capsules. **Capsules:** ~3 mm long, oblong and dark brown to black. **Tepals:** shorter than the length of capsules.

**Similar species:** *J. prismatocarpus* which has many-branched flower heads with green or pink flower clusters and tends to be more clump forming.



A- habitat, B- whole plant, C- flower heads, D- capsules, E- leaves with vertical and horizontal cross walls, F- leaves, G- leaf base and creeping rhizome.