



**Genus-species:** *Juncus microcephalus*

**Authority:** Kunth, 1815

**Subordinate taxa:** -

**Synonyms and authority:** -

**Common name:** South American rush

**Section:** Ozophyllum

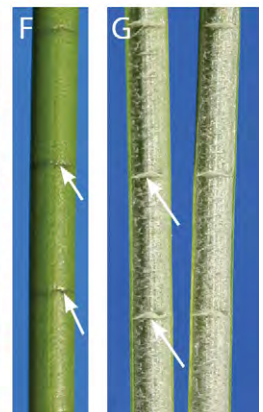
**Threat status (2012):** Naturalised

**NZ distribution:** Throughout NI, SI from Tasman, Westland and Canterbury

**Habitat:** Swamp ground, especially disturbed areas, water body margins.

**Identification features:** Upright leafy rush to 90 cm tall. **Leaves:** tubular with internal cross walls (feels like clicks if you hold base of leaf between finger and thumb and slide up). **Flower heads:** many branched, with 3-8 flowered clusters near the end of stem. **Capsules:** 2.5-3.5 mm long, broad, flat topped with a sharp tip and reddish-brown in colour. **Tepals:** equal to or greater in length compared to capsule.

**Similar species:** Similar to other tubular leaved rushes with visible cross walls in leaves, but is taller and stouter than most other species (except *J. acutiflorus*) and has flat topped capsules with a sharp pointed tip.



A- habitat, B- whole plant, C- flower heads, D- capsules and tepals, E- capsule with sharp pointed tip, F- leaves with crosswalls visible externally, G- cross section of leaf showing internal cross walls.