



**Genus-species:** *Juncus pallidus*

**Authority:** R.Br., 1810

**Subordinate taxa:** -

**Synonyms and authority:** *Juncus macrostigma* Colenso (1884)

**Common name:** giant rush

**Section:** Juncotypus

**Threat status (2012):** Native, non threatened

**NZ distribution:** North, South, and Stewart Islands.

**Habitat:** Coastal to lowland. Often in pastures where it can be a major weed. Usually in damp swampy hollows, on the margins of wetland and lakes, in open shrubland on damp ground.

**Identification features:** Very robust forming dense grey-green clumps up to 2 m tall. Flowering stems erect, smooth and slightly glossy. Has many hair like bracts at the base of stems. **Pith:** when stem is split length ways, pith is continuous (without holes). **Leaves:** absent, reduced to basal sheaths. **Flower heads:** many flowers usually condensed into fan like clusters near the end of stems. **Capsules:** 2.8-3.6 mm long and a pale greenish-brown. **Tepals:** usually much shorter in length than capsules.

**Similar species:** Can be confused with *J. procerus* which is also an extremely robust species of similar habitats. However *J. procerus* usually has dark green stems and the internal pith is interrupted not continuous. *J. pauciflorus* is a very uncommon species with very slender, tough, bright green stems, rather than ridgedly stout branchlets.



A- habitat, B- whole plant, C- capsules and tepals, D- flower head, E- stem, F- continuous pith, G- basal sheaths.