



**Genus-species:** *Juncus squarrosus*

**Authority:** L., 1753

**Subordinate taxa:** -

**Synonyms and authority:** -

**Common name:** heath rush

**Section:** Steirochloa

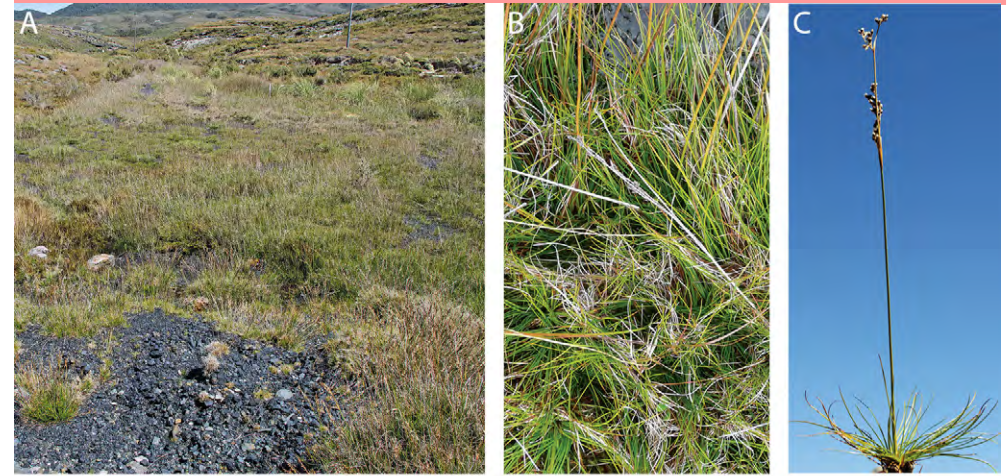
**Threat status (2012):** Naturalised

**NZ distribution:** Scattered in Wellington and South Island.

**Habitat:** Peaty and other low nutrient (acid) sites.

**Identification features:** Leafy rush to 35 cm tall with leaves bent sharply back or down. **Leaves:** stiff, wiry and flexible, with most bending downwards just above the base. Leaves half the length of stems. **Flower heads:** clusters of 2 to 3 dark brown flowers form at end of upright flower stems with a long leaf like extension (bract) above this. **Capsules:** large, ~5 mm long, yellow-brown to dark chestnut-brown in colour. **Tepals:** slightly longer in length than capsules.

**Similar species:** No other rush has the stiff wiry leaves that are bent sharply back or down, and the large dark chestnut brown capsules.



A- habitat, B- whole plants often with dead foliage present, C- whole plant showing flower head, D- flower head, E- capsules and tepals, F- leaves, G- base of leaves.