

Caesia calliantha



Caesia calliantha. H & A Wapstra.

FAMILY: LILIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Caesia calliantha*,
R.Henderson, *Fl. Australia* 45: 471 (1987)

COMMON NAME: Blue grass lily

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A tufted, perennial plant that grows up to 30 cm tall with fibrous roots that have broad spindle or cigar-shaped tuberous swellings. **Leaves:** The basal leaf blades are crowded and grass-like, growing up to 30 cm long and between 9-15 mm wide. **Flowers:** The flowers are in clusters of 1-3 arising from each stem joint (node) along stout erect stems that measure up to 50 cm long. The petals of the flower are between 6-9 mm long and are lilac blue to deep blue-purple and form a star-like flower. The petals become spirally twisted after flowering. The stalk carrying the anthers is narrow and cigar-shaped. Flowering time is September to February. **Fruit:** The fruit is a capsule. The seeds are black and usually solitary in each partition (description from Curtis & Morris 1994, Gray *et al.* 2001). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from October to December. **This species was previously known as *Caesia vittata* (sensu Rodwayi 1903).**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. In Tasmania, *Caesia calliantha* is found predominantly throughout the Midlands in grassland or grassy woodland habitat and has also been recorded from grassy roadsides (Curtis & Morris 1994).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include the Symmons Plains Raceway, Bryants Road (Deddington), Glen Esk Road/Midland Highway junction, Penquite (near Norwood, Launceston), the South Esk River, Woolmers, Punch Bowl, Launceston, Conara and the Powranna Road junction on the Midlands Highway.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Carr Villa Conservation Area, Central Plateau Conservation Area, Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, Punchbowl Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

Caesia calliantha can resprout after damage and reproduces vegetatively. Fire is not necessary for recruitment. The major threat to this species is encroaching urban development (TPLUC 1996).

Conservation Status Assessment

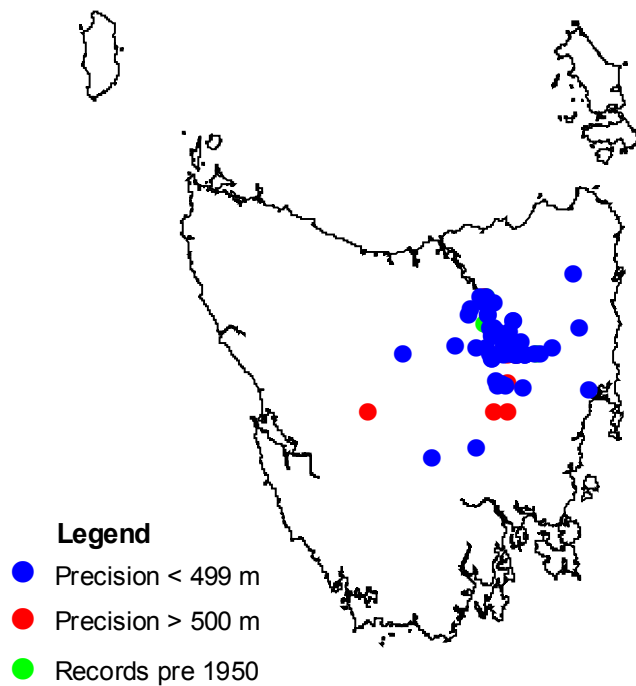
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Caesia calliantha*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Gray, M & Knight, J eds 2001, *Flora of Melbourne: A Guide to the Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area*, Hyland House Publishing, Melbourne.
- Morgan, JW 1998, 'Comparative Germination Responses of 28 Temperate Grassland Species', *Australian Journal of Botany*, vol .46, pp.209-219.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Bothwell, Cleveland, Conara, Cranbrook, Cressy, Delmont, Diamond, Ellinthorp, Evandale, Fingal, Hanleth, Interlaken, Jacobs, Launceston, Longford, Nile, O'Connors, Ouse, Pillans, Poatina, Prospect, Ross, Rufus, St Pauls Dome, Tunbridge, Victoria.

Date last modified: 03/09/03