

# Carex cephalotes



**FAMILY:** CYPERACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Carex cephalotes*,  
F.Muell., *Trans. Phil. Soc. Vict.* 1: 110  
(1855)

**COMMON NAME:** Mt Eliza sedge

**COMMONWEALTH STATUS:** (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

**TASMANIAN STATUS:** (*TSP Act*) rare

*Carex cephalotes*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

## Description

A densely tufted, perennial sedge with underground stems (rhizomes) and stout roots. **Stems:** The stems are somewhat curved, slender, smooth and rigid when dry (between 2.5-5 cm long). **Leaves:** The leaves are dark green to bluish-green, flat and keeled towards their ends. They are also thick (1-1.5 mm broad), channelled and taper to a narrow point. **Seedhead:** The seedhead is arranged in a solitary spike (5-8 mm long) on a smooth stalk (2.5-5 cm tall). The female part is situated along the lower region of the seedhead and occupies a greater area than the male part. Flowering occurs in summer (Flora of Victoria). **Seed (nut):** The seed is dark greenish-brown and approximately 1.75 mm long, oblong in shape and rather flat. The ends of the seeds are rounded (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). The only herbarium specimen was collected in January.

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in New South Wales and Victoria. In Tasmania, *Carex cephalotes* is known only from a snow patch on the lee side of Mount Eliza in the western mountains at an altitude of 1 250 metres (Kirkpatrick 1997).

## Key Sites and Populations

J. Davies collected this species once from Mount Eliza in 1982.

## Known Reserves

Reserved in the Southwest National Park.

## Ecology and Management

Wind is the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

## Conservation Status Assessment

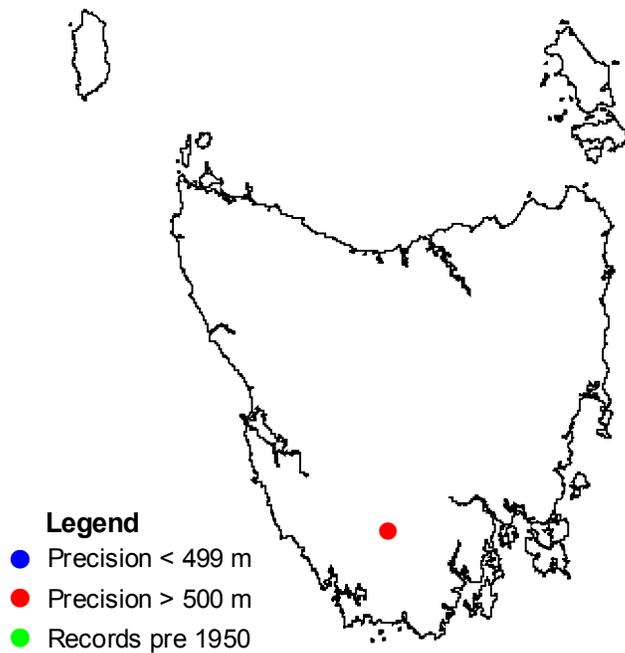
*Carex cephalotes* may warrant uplisting though further survey is required for a meaningful reassessment.

## Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1997, *Alpine Tasmania*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

## Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, March 2002)



## 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Anne.

Date last modified: 03/09/03