

Carex longebrachiata



Carex longebrachiata.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: CYPERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Carex longebrachiata*,
Boeck., *Linnaea* 41: 282 (1877)

COMMON NAME: Drooping sedge

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A robust perennial sedge that forms dense, small to large tussocks. **Stems:** The stems are slender, ribbed and almost smooth. Initially the sedge is erect and as long as the leaves, later it becomes elongated and drooping. **Leaves:** The leaves mostly arise from the base, but some arise from lower part of stems. The leaves are leathery, erect to half spreading and the blade is between 12-60 cm long and 3-5 mm wide. They are more-or-less parallel-sided, with a pointed tip and edges that are rough to the touch. **Seedhead:** The seedhead is branched with erect spike(s) (seeding parts) at the tip, and drooping spikes on long stalks in clusters of 3-4. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are narrow-cylindrical and between 4-6.5 cm. **Fruit sack:** The fruit sac is shortly-stalked and almost erect to somewhat spreading. It is between 6-7 mm long and 1.5-2 mm wide, spindle-shaped but almost triangular in cross-section and quite tough but flexible. They are almost translucent, shining and pale brown or greenish brown. The hard protrusion known as the beak is between 1.5-2 mm long. Flowering is from spring to summer (Flora of Victoria). **Seeds (nut):** The seed is stalked, filling the cavity of the fruit sack. It is egg-shaped but triangular in cross-section, brown and dotted (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from September to January. **Taxonomic history:** *Carex longifolia* was split into *Carex longebrachiata* and *Carex iynx*.

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania, *Carex longebrachiata* grows along riverbanks, in rough grassland and pastures. It has been found in the north-east, Central Highlands, Midlands and south-west of the State (Curtis & Morris 1994).



Carex longebrachiata.
Fruit sack. D. Morris.

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Dennistoun Road, Cascades (Hobart), Punch Bowl (Launceston), Mt Nelson, Bicton (west of Campbell Town), Whites Mill Road (Lilydale), Queens Domain (Hobart), Elderslie, Midlands Highway near St Peters Pass, Patersonia, Macquarie River at Trefusis, Leprena Track (Southport), Nive River, Trevallyn State Recreation Area, East Orielson Rivulet (Tasman Highway) and Merseylea Road (near Railton).

Known Reserves

This species is poorly reserved considering its widespread distribution. The only known reserve for *Carex longebrachiata* is the Trevallyn State Recreation Area.

Ecology and Management

This species can reproduce vegetatively from rhizomes (underground stems) and tolerates heavy grazing and herbicide (Roundup) application. *Carex longebrachiata* also persists after fire. Forest clearing has an adverse effect on this species (TPLUC 1996).

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

Conservation Status Assessment

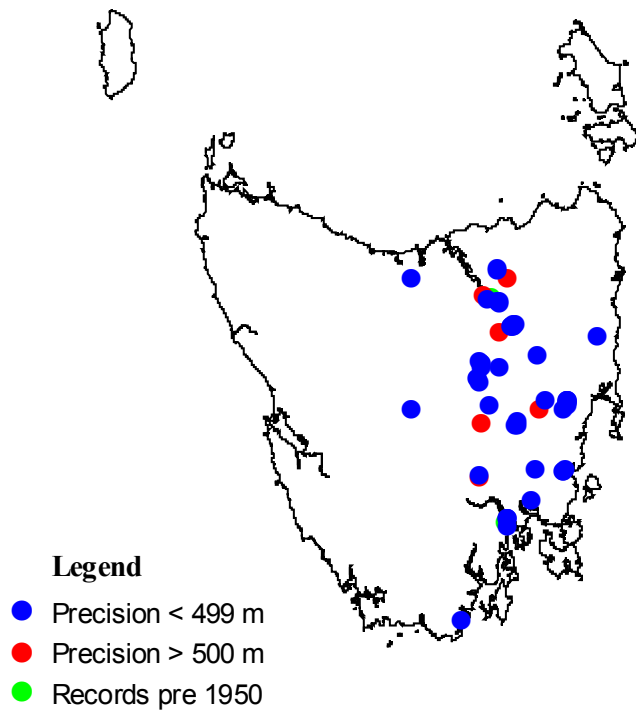
Carex longebrachiata should be reassessed for possible delisting.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- 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

Blessington, Bronte, Buckland, Colonels, Diamond, Dilston, Elderslie, Evandale, Fingal, Hobart, Interlaken, Launceston, Leprena, Lilydale, Millers, Morriston, Nile, O'Connors, Oatlands, Orford, Patersonia, Prospect, Railton, Sorell, Table, Tarooona, Vincents.

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