

Hierochloe rariflora



Hierochloe rariflora.
Scans: N. Fitzgerald

FAMILY: POACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Hierochloe rariflora*,
Hook.f., *Fl. Antarct.* 1: 93 (1845)

COMMON NAME: Cane holy grass

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

This species is a tufted perennial grass that grows up to 95 cm tall. **Stem:** The stems are slender, smooth and can be single or clustered from the lower nodes (stem joints). **Leaves:** The ribbed blades are up to 20 cm long with sparing, rough hairs. The lower surface is usually inrolled, the upper is flat and up to 5 mm wide. The sheaths surrounding the base of the leaves are finely ribbed and covered in tiny rough hairs, the lower sheaths are often purple. **Seedheads (panicle):** The panicle is between 2.5-8 cm long and sparsely flowered. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are between 4.5-5 mm long and have leaf-like structures that surround the spikelet (glumes) that are broad, green or purplish and unequal in length. The lower glume is shorter than the upper one. Flowering is from December to February (Flora of Victoria). **Seed cover (lemma):** The seed cover has tiny rough hairs below the tip and is not hardened. This grass has a sweet scent (description from Bunbridge 1966, Curtis & Morris 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected through most of the year.

Distribution and Habitat

This species occurs in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. In Tasmania, *Hierochloe rariflora* is uncommon and is found in *Eucalyptus* forest and riparian/gorge habitat up to 400 metres altitude in the north-east and on the East Coast. It grows on both granite and dolerite substrates (Curtis & Morris 1994).



Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Spurrs Rivulet, The Doctors Peak, Rattray Creek, Flagstaff Creek, Constable Creek, Swan River, Apsley River, Granite Knob, Wedgetail Peak (Mt. Cameron), Harding Falls, George Bay, Goshen, Loila Pinnacle (Scamander), Skyline Tier Road, Old Chum Dam water race and Ryans Bridge at upper Scamander.

Known Reserves

Hierochloe rariflora is found in the Cameron Regional Reserve, Doctors Peak Forest Reserve, Douglas-Apsley National Park, German Town Forest Reserve, Hardings Falls Forest Reserve, Lower Marsh Creek Forest Reserve, Mount Pearson State Reserve and the North Scottsdale Forest Reserve.

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

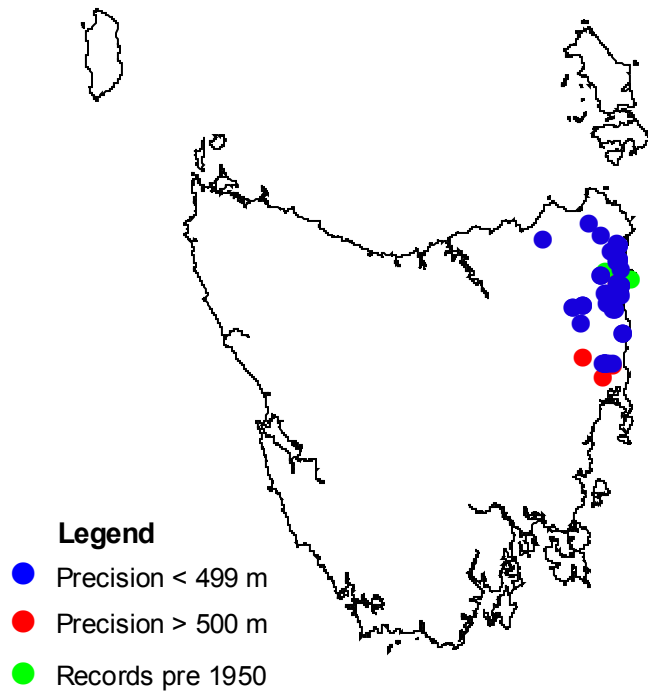
Hierochloe rariflora should be reassessed for possible delisting.

Further Information

- Bunbridge, NT 1966, *Australian Grasses*, Angus and Robinson Publishers, Australia.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Applawn, Beaumaris, Binalong, Blue Tier, Brilliant, Dublin Town, Henry, Lanka, Mangana, Mathinna, Monarch, Pearly Brook, Piccaninny, Pyengana, Spurrs Rivulet, St Helens, St Pauls Dome, The Gardens.

Date last modified: 15/08/03