# *Juncus vaginatus*

*Juncus vaginatus*.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

**FAMILY:** JUNCACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Juncus vaginatus,* R.Br., *Prodr*. 258 (1810)

**COMMON NAME:** Clustered rush

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

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

## Description

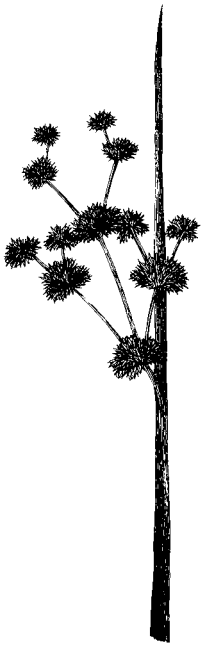
A tall perennial rush (between 60–100 cm) that forms large clumps. **Flowering stems:** The stems are erect (between 60-100 cm long and 2.5 mm wide), pale or yellowish-green and coarsely ridged. They are also dull and soft with continuous pith that is loose like a honeycomb. **Seedheads:** The seedhead is situated at the side of the stem and has many-flowers, usually with stiff, widely-spreading branches terminating in small clusters of flowers or having secondary branches carrying terminal clusters that are almost stalkless. Flowering is predominantly from November to January (Flora of Victoria). **Capsules:** The capsule is egg-shaped and almost spherical (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from December to March.

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. In Tasmania, *Juncus vaginatus* is found in localised patches predominantly in the south-east, but also around Launceston, in the west and on King Island. This species is generally found near margins of streams or in permanently wet soakage areas of marshes (Barnes *et al.* 2002, Curtis and Morris 1994)

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Lake Dulverton, Tea Tree Creek swamp (near Buckland), East Tamar, Gatehouse Marsh (between Buckland and Orford), Ocean Beach on Strahan Road, Wedge Island, Lisdillon Rivulet and Liffey River Bridge (TPLUC 1996).



*Juncus vaginatus*. R. Hale.

## Known Reserves

Reserved in the Coningham Nature Recreation Area, Heathy Hills Nature Reserve, Lake Dulverton Conservation Area, Little Quoin Conservation Area and Wye River State Reserve.

## Ecology and Management

Barnes *et al.* (2002) states that, as with most marginal wetland plants, this species is susceptible to habitat loss and modification through wetland/lagoon drainage, conversion to agricultural uses and stock access. Changes in nutrient/sediment loadings and increased turbidity of the water in which the plant grows may also negatively affect the species (for example, through the construction of drains near or into wetlands and vehicle use within the wetland or stock access). Wetland/lagoon environments that contain this species should be left undrained, fenced to exclude stock and remain undisturbed by human activities (e.g. vehicle use).

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

## Conservation Status Assessment

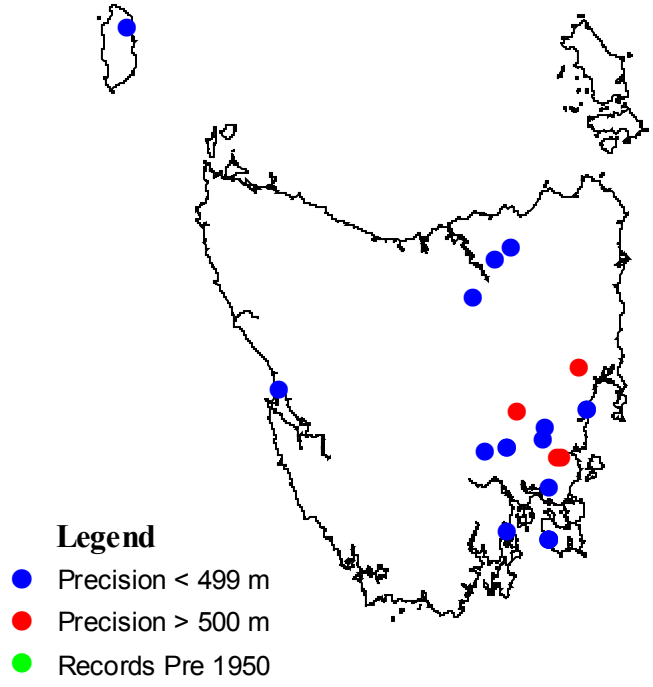
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Juncus vaginatus*.

## Further Information


- Barnes, RW, Duncan, F & Todd, CS 2002, *The Native Vegetation of King Island, Bass Strait,* Nature Conservation Report 02/6, Nature Conservation Branch, Resource Management & Conservation, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.
- 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

Barnes Bay, Bellinger, Cluan, Colebrook, Dilston, Elderslie, Leake, Lisdillon, Lisle, Oatlands, Orford, Port Arthur, Saltwater, Sorell, Whitefoord, Woodsdale.

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