

Lachnagrostis punicea subsp. *punicea*



Lachnagrostis punicea subsp. *punicea*.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: POACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Lachnagrostis punicea*
subsp. *punicea*, (A.J.Brown & N.G.Walsh)
S.W.L.Jacobs, *Telopea* 9(4): 837 (2002)

COMMON NAME: Bristle blowgrass

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not
Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

An erect tufted grass up to 1.25 m. **Stems:** The stems are circular, smooth to rough, and densely covered in tiny rough hairs below the inflorescence. The nodes (stem joints) of this species are also covered in tiny rough hairs. **Leaves:** The leaves are flat and grow to up to 20 cm long. The sheaths surrounding the base of the leaves are slightly rough and either green or purple in colour. **Seedhead (panicle):** The panicle is less than 12 cm long and spreads widely when reaching maturity. The branches are stiff and rough to the touch. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are 3.5-6.5 mm long and often purplish. The leaf-like structures surrounding the spikelets (glumes) are often unequal, the lower one being the longer. **Seed cover (lemma):** The seed cover is between up to 4.5 mm long and is hairy all over or with hairs only on the margins. A long hair like structure (awn) between 6.5-10 mm long is inserted towards the base of the seed cover. This species flowers between December and January. Herbarium specimens have been collected in November and December. **Confusing species:** *Lachnagrostis punicea* subsp. *punicea* is very similar to *Lachnagrostis aemula*. The most helpful diagnostic character to separate the two is the narrower leaf of *Lachnagrostis aemula* compared to the wider and very flat leaf of *Lachnagrostis punicea* subsp. *punicea*. The seed covers are also slightly longer (up to 4.5 mm long compared to 1.8-3 mm long) and the long hair like structure (awn) is inserted towards the base of the seed not the middle of the seed as in *Lachnagrostis aemula* (description from Curtis & Morris 1994, Gray & Knight 2001, Kirkpatrick 1997). **This species was previously known as *Agrostis aemula* var. *setifolia*.**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species is found in Victoria. The Tasmanian distribution includes a few sites extending from New Norfolk through the Midlands. One record from Ulverstone represents the north-west region. This species has been recorded from dry woodland and forest, grazed pasture and wet soaks (Curtis & Morris 1994). *Lachnagrostis punicea* subsp. *filifolia*, the other subspecies of *Lachnagrostis punicea* occurring in Tasmania is also listed as rare.

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include New Norfolk, Nile Road near Shooters Hill, Tooms Lake Road near Pringle Hills, Auburn Road near Ross, Powranna Road near Powranna and Ulverstone.

Known Reserves

This species is not currently known from any reserve.

Ecology and Management

Lachnagrostis punicea subsp. *punicea* can reproduce vegetatively and the information currently available suggests that disturbance is required for this to occur (TPLUC 1996).

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

Conservation Status Assessment

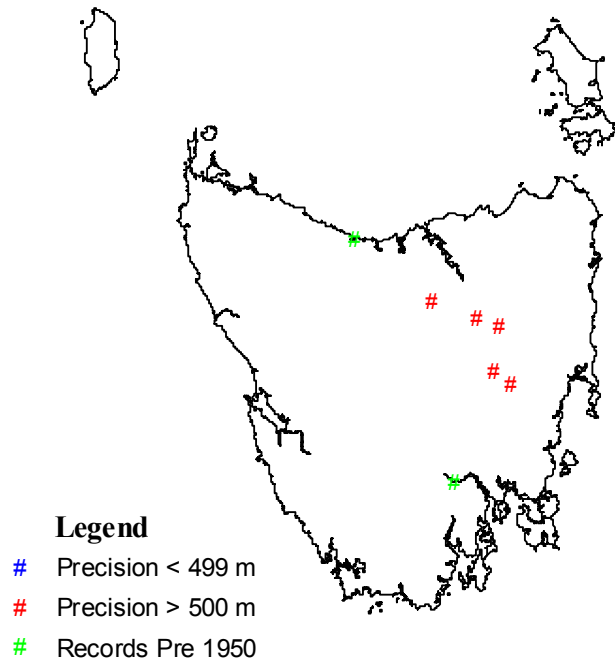
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Lachnagrostis punicea* subsp. *punicea*. Further survey is required to determine the current distribution. This taxon may have been under-recorded due to failure to identify plants beyond the species level.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, 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.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.
- Walsh, NG & Entwistle, TJ eds 1994, *Flora of Victoria*, Volume 2, Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Cleveland, Cluan, Ellinthorp, Morriston, New Norfolk, Nile, Ulverstone.

Date last modified: 18/08/03