

Lepidosperma forsythii



Lepidosperma forsythii.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: CYPERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Lepidosperma forsythii*,
A.A.Hamilton, *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.* 35: 411
(1910)

COMMON NAME: Stout rapier sedge

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

This tall, tussocky sedge has a rhizome (underground stem) that is orange-brown in colour with short internodes (space between stem joints). The Tasmanian species are smaller than those found on the mainland, which can be 1.5 metres in height and have a more branched inflorescence. **Stems:** The stems are minutely marked with striations and are nearly spherical to bluntly angular and up to 75 cm long. **Leaves:** The leaves are much shorter than the stems and are reduced to a short open peeling base, which is purplish and up to 10 cm long. **Seedhead:** The flowerheads consist of a 3-7 flowered spike or reduced panicle (stalked flower head) between 3.5 cm long. The bracts (leaf-like structures associated with flowers) are lance-shaped and between 1.7-2 cm long. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are between 9-10 mm long and are narrow with leaf-like structures that surround the spikelets (glumes). There are 4-5 glumes that are lance-shaped and equal in length. They are the same length as the spikelet also. There is only one fertile flower, which is often associated with a non-functional flower that is positioned just below it. Flowering is from spring to summer (Flora of Victoria). **Seed (nut):** The fruit is a nut, which has whitish bristles that are flattened and cover usually all but one side. Each nut is approximately 4.5 mm long (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected from October to April.

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in New South Wales and Victoria. In Tasmania, *Lepidosperma forsythii* is restricted to the north-east and the East Coast. It is found in wet heath, sedgeland and near coastal areas up to 220 metres altitude (Curtis & Morris 1994).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Waterhouse Creek, Mt William and Callitris Creek on the Freycinet Peninsula.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Bay of Fires Conservation Area, Freycinet National Park, Mount William National Park and North Scottsdale Forest Reserve.

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

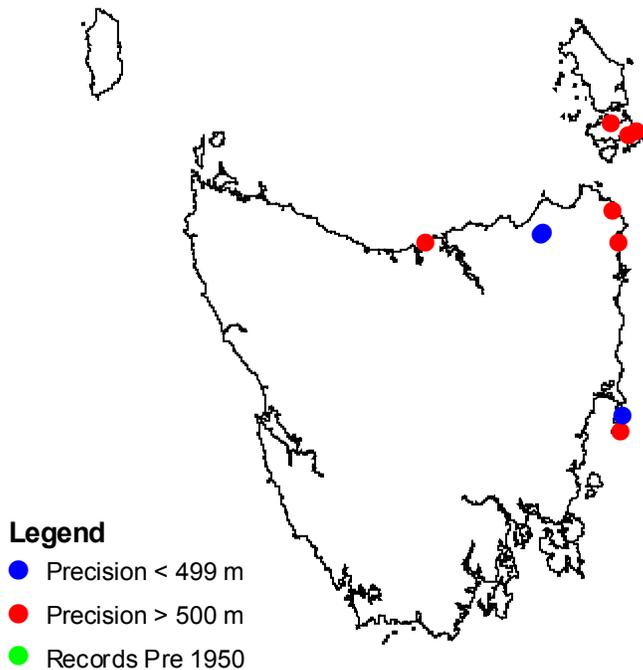
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Lepidosperma forsythii*.

Further Information

- 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, May 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Anderson, Coles Bay, Eddystone, Graham, Kerford, Naturaliste, Pearly Brook, Port Sorell, Schouten, The Gardens.

Date last modified: 03/09/03