

Lepidosperma viscidum



FAMILY: CYPERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Lepidosperma viscidum*,
R.Br., *Prodr.* 234 (1810)

COMMON NAME: Sticky sword sedge

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Lepidosperma viscidum.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

Description

This species has a short rhizome (underground stem). **Stems:** The stems are similar to the leaves but usually slightly narrower and up to 85 cm tall. **Leaves:** The leaves are folded length wise with pale sheaths (leaf-like structures) that are dark brown at the base. The blades are up to 60 cm long and 3-8 mm wide. The margins are resinous and are covered in tiny rough hairs. **Seedhead:** The seedhead is between 8-17 cm long. It is narrow with short and erect branches. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are between 6-7 mm long and lance-shaped in outline. There are 5-6 glumes (leaf-like structures associated with flower) that are situated below the nut. The glumes are roughly egg-shaped in outline, the lower glumes are pointed at the tips. Flowering is from spring to summer (Flora of Victoria). **Seed (nut):** There is one nut per spikelet. They are between 3-5-4 mm long and shiny. At first the nut is greenish-white with 3 prominent shallow ribs. The mature nut is not visible but is apparently pale brown and smooth. Spongy scales are present, which cover approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the nut (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected from September to June.

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania, the distribution includes a few coastal or near-coastal sites in rocky situations. The habitat is recorded as low, open *Allocasuarina* forest/open shrubland on dolerite or granite substrates. The range of this species extends around the North and East Coast (Curtis & Morris 1994)

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include the south side of Sleepy Bay, West Head, Hawley Beach, Waterhouse Point, Greens Beach Road, between Clarence Point & Kelso, the foot of Mt. Parsons in the Freycinet National Park, the Fisheries in Coles Bay and the track to Mount Parsons also in Freycinet National Park.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Bruny Island Neck Game Reserve, Freycinet National Park, Hawley Nature Reserve, Narawntapu National Park, and the Waterhouse Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

Threats to this species include the degradation of coastal habitat through clearing, stock-trampling and inappropriate fire regimes.

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

Conservation Status Assessment

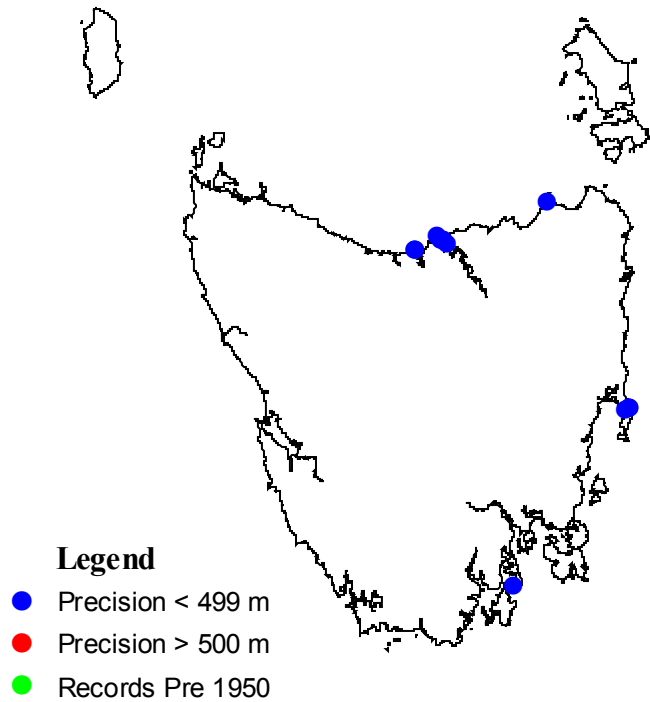
Lepidosperma viscidum may warrant uplisting though more information may be required for a meaningful assessment.

Further Information

- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- 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

Adventure Bay, Bell Bay, Coles Bay, Devonport, Greens Beach, Waterhouse.

Date last modified: 18/08/03