

# *Luzula atrata*



*Luzula atrata*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

**FAMILY:** JUNCACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Luzula atrata*,  
Edgar, *N.Z. J. Bot.* 13: 794 (1975)

**COMMON NAME:** Dark woodrush

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

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

## Description

A loosely tufted perennial with a basal branch that is prostrate or trailing close to the ground and producing roots and shoots from the joints (stolons). **Flowering stems:** This species has a single stem, on which the seedhead is borne, that is erect and stiff at maturity (between 7-12 cm tall). **Leaves:** The leaves are stiff and channelled (1-3 mm broad) and thicken just below the rounded tips. The leaf margins have minute pimple-like protrusions. The leaves are almost hairless, except for at junction of the blade and sheath. **Seedhead:** The seedhead is located at the end of the stem, and is arranged in a tight cluster resembling a globe or fat cylinder. The leaf-like structures associated with the seedhead (bracts) are light brown and broadly triangular in shape, tapering gradually to a rather long point. Flowering is from November to February (Flora of Victoria). **Capsules:** The capsule is dark brown to black and contains black seeds (description from Curtis & Morris 1994, Kirkpatrick 1997). Herbarium specimens have been collected from January to March.

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in New South Wales and Victoria. In Tasmania, *Luzula atrata* is found in a range of habitats including alpine heath, montane grassland, snow patch vegetation, lake banks and in rock/boulder crevices. It usually occurs in areas with wet ground and is restricted to the Central Highlands and Southwest mountains (Curtis & Morris 1994, Kirkpatrick 1997).

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Goulds Sugarloaf, Cradle Mountain (near Plateau Creek), Lake Will, Horse Track to Cradle Mountain plateau, between Wild Dog Tier and First Bar Lake, Deep Lake, near Kitchen Hut, Cradle Mountain, Mt. Geryon, Prince Alberts Throne to Lake Ila, Mt La Perouse and Mt Jukes.

### **Known Reserves**

Reserved in the Central Plateau Conservation Area, Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and the Southwest National Park.

### **Ecology and Management**

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

### **Conservation Status Assessment**

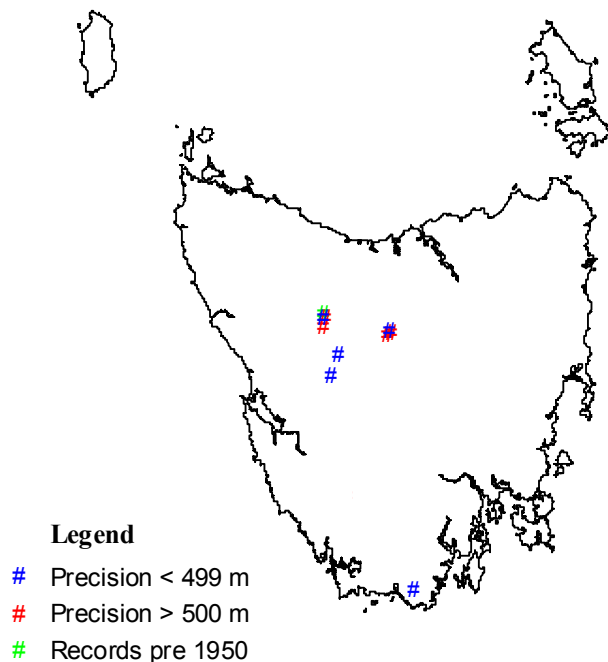
There is insufficient information on the distribution of *Luzula atrata* to enable a meaningful reassessment of its conservation status.

### **Further Information**

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1997, *Alpine Tasmania*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

### **Tasmanian Distribution**

(As per Threatened Species Section records, September 2009)



### **1:25 000 Map Sheets**

Breona, Cradle, Du Cane, Goulds, Pillans, Precipitous, Will.

Date last modified: 1/9/2009

#### **View**

<http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

#### **Contact details**

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