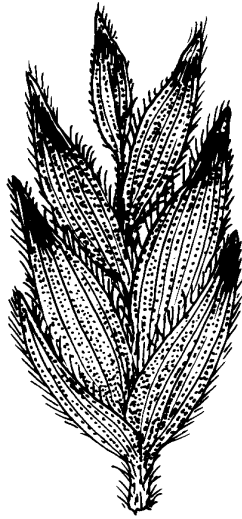


Poa mollis



Poa mollis. R. Hale

FAMILY: POACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Poa mollis*, Vickery, *Contr. N.S.W. Natl. Herb.* 4 (4): 241 (1970)

COMMON NAME: Soft poa grass

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A loosely tufted perennial plant up to 80 cm tall. **Stems:** The stems are slender and densely hairy below the nodes (stem joints). **Leaves:** The leaf blades are flattened or inrolled and up to 28 cm long and 3 mm wide when flattened. They are densely velvety. The sheaths surrounding the base of the leaves are straw coloured or purplish. The upper sheaths are grey-green to blue-green and thickly covered with soft hairs. **Seedheads (panicle):** The panicle is up to 21 cm long and is loosely contracted or wide spreading. The branches and flower stalks are covered in tiny rough hairs. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are 2-4 flowered and green or tinged purple. The leaf-like structures that surround the spikelet (glumes) are nearly equal and approximately 2 mm long. The upper glume is broader. **Seed cover (lemma):** The seed cover is between 2.5-3.25 mm long and is lance shaped in side view. Most herbarium specimens have been collected from October to December. **Confusing species:** This species looks very much like *Poa rodwayi*, however *Poa mollis* has longer, softer and denser hairs on the leaves and lower parts of the stem. Another distinguishing feature is the purple leaf-sheaths at the base of the stem (description from Curtis & Morris 1994).

Distribution and Habitat

Poa mollis is endemic to Tasmania and is found on dry open hillsides and cliffs, predominantly in the east of the State (Curtis & Morris 1994).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include the Cataract Gorge (South Esk River, Launceston), the Bluff above Pipers River near Karoola, Hardings Falls (20 km NW of Bicheno), Meetus Falls (15 km NW of Cranbrook), the end of Banksia Street in Bicheno, Powranna Road (Epping Forest) and the Aulds Kirk church ground in Sidmouth.

Known Reserves

Known from the Butlers Ridge Nature Reserve, Buxton River Forest Reserve, Douglas-Apsley National Park, Hardings Falls Forest Reserve, Meetus Falls Forest Reserve, Pelham West Nature Reserve, St Pauls Regional Reserve and the Wye River State Reserve.

Ecology and Management

The major threat to this species is the low number of individuals. Other impacts include grazing. Fire appears beneficial, with persistence and resprouting after low intensity burns (TPLUC 1996).

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

Conservation Status Assessment

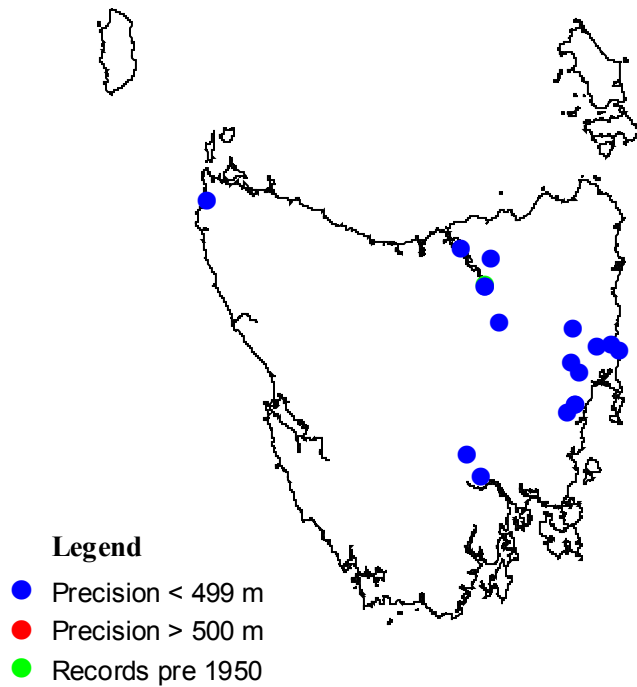
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Poa mollis*.

Further Information

- 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

Beaconsfield, Bicheno, Broadmarsh, Cameron, Cressy, Hamilton, Henry, Launceston, Leake, Lilydale, Royalty, Snow, St Pauls Dome, Tooms.

Date last modified: 03/09/03