

# *Schoenus latelaminatus*



Scanned image by Richard Schahinger

**FAMILY:** CYPERACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Schoenus latelaminatus*  
Kük., *Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg.* 44: 88  
(1938)

**COMMON NAME:** Medusa bogsedge

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

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

## Description

*Schoenus latelaminatus* is a tufted annual sedge. Its flowering stems (culms) are slender, erect though flaccid, and up to 15 cm high. The leaves arise from the base of the plant, are pale-green, flat and grass-like, up to 10 cm long by 1 to 2 mm wide, and taper to a slightly thickened tip; leaf sheaths are straw-coloured to red-brown and a ligule is present. Inflorescence narrow, erect, with 2–6 nodes, each with 1–5 spikelets. Spikelets narrow-ovate, acute, 2 to 6-flowered, 6 to 12 mm long. Glumes 4 to 9, narrow-ovate, c. 5 mm long, acute, straw-coloured to dark red-brown with glabrous margins; stamens 3. Nut trigonous, ellipsoid, 1.2 to 2 mm long, 3-ribbed, reticulate-pitted, glabrous, ± shining, greyish to black-spotted or evenly pale brown. Flowering occurs from spring to early summer.

[description from Jessop & Toelken 1986, Curtis & Morris 1994, Walsh & Entwisle 1996]

## Distribution and Habitat

On mainland Australia *Schoenus latelaminatus* occurs in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales (Curtis & Morris 1994). In Tasmania the species is known from the Northern Midlands between Campbell Town and Powranna, where it grows at the margins of wetlands and in seasonally wet places, including depressions associated with gilgai features. A suite of rare flora species typically co-occur with *Schoenus latelaminatus*, including *Amphibromus macrorhinus*, *Aphelia gracilis*, *Isoetes drummondii* subsp. *drummondii*, *Lobelia pratioides*, *Myriophyllum integrifolium*, *Stylidium despectum* and *Trithuria submersa*. The altitude of recorded

sites in Tasmania ranges from 180 to 210 m above sea level; the underlying geology is mostly Tertiary sediment but also includes Tertiary basalt and Quaternary alluvium.



**Plates 1 & 2.** *Schoenus latelaminatus*: habit and habitat at Powranna Nature Reserve  
(images by Richard Schahinger)

### **Key Sites and Populations**

Smiths Lagoon, Powranna, Epping Forest, Diprose Lagoon, Maclains Plain. Plant numbers at Smiths Lagoon have been estimated at greater than 10,000 in an area of 2 to 3 hectares; estimates at other sites range in size from 100s to 1000s, with plants occurring in scattered but localised patches.

### **Known Reserves**

Powranna Nature Reserve, Tom Gibson Nature Reserve. Significant subpopulations also occur on private land covered by conservation covenants under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, most notably Smiths Lagoon and areas to its southeast.

### **Ecology and Management**

As an annual species, numbers may fluctuate considerably from year to year depending on conditions pre- and post-germination, with wind the most likely pollination vector. Survival through unfavourable periods will depend upon the presence and persistence of a soil seed-bank; its fruit does not have obvious dispersal aids, so any movement will generally be associated with water flow and/or animals. The species' ephemeral nature means that the risk of inadvertent habitat destruction is high, as environmental impact assessments may not be conducted at optimal times for detection. Moreover, the species is prone to heavy browsing by native animals, making a positive identification difficult even in favourable seasons.

Significant areas of habitat for *Schoenus latelaminatus* in Tasmania's Northern Midlands are likely to have been lost to land clearance since European settlement. Potential threats to the species and its habitat include changes to local and broader hydrological processes, stock trampling, nutrient enrichment associated with stock and fertiliser application, and weed invasion.

## **Conservation Status Assessment**

Curtis and Morris (1994) described the distribution of *Schoenus latelaminatus* in Tasmania as: 'local and uncommon on the margin of a roadside soak in the Midlands near Epping Forest', though the species had also been noted twenty kilometres to the north in a 'grassy flat' along Powranna Road (Kirkpatrick et al. 1988). These were the only known sites in Tasmania when the species was listed as endangered on the original schedules of the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

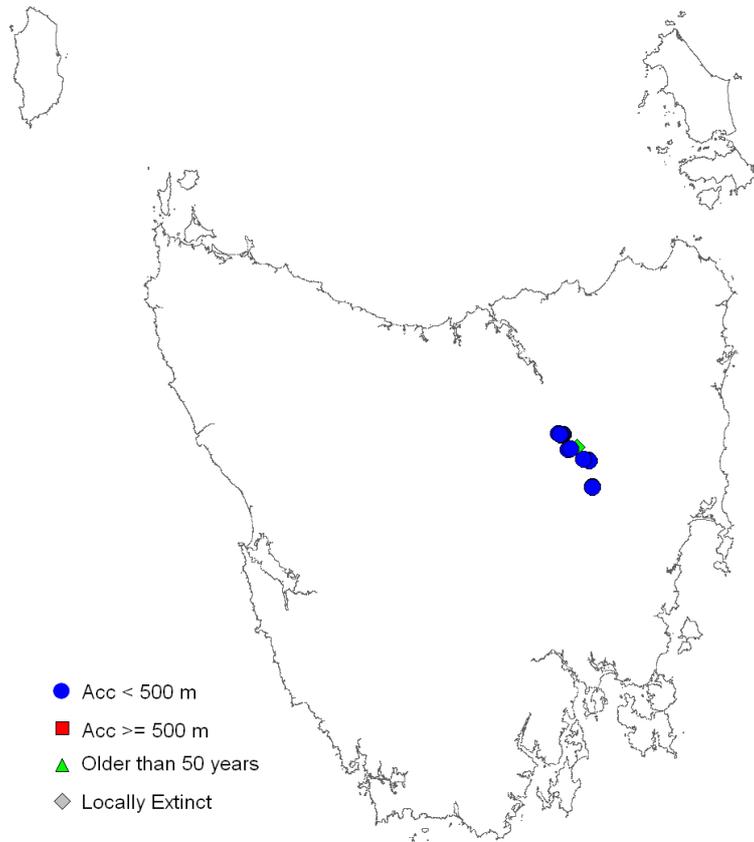
Several new sites have been discovered in the past five years and the species' reservation status has been improved, with the majority of sites in formal or private reserves. It is considered highly likely that additional sites will emerge if potential habitat were subjected to targeted surveys, particularly if the presence of an indicator species such as *Stylidium despectum* was used to focus the survey effort. A reassessment of the species' conservation status may be warranted in the wake of such surveys.

## **Further Information**

- Curtis, W.M. & Morris, D.I. (1994). *The Student's Flora of Tasmania, Part 4B. ANGIOSPERMAE: Alismataceae to Burmanniaceae*. St. David's Park Publishing, Hobart.
- Jessop, J.P. & Toelken, H.R. (1986). *Flora of South Australia Part IV: Alismataceae—Orchidaceae*. South Australian Government Printing Division, Adelaide.
- Kirkpatrick, J., Gilfedder, L. & Fensham, R. (1988). *City Parks and Cemeteries: Tasmania's Remnant Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands*. Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc., Hobart.
- Walsh, N.G. & Entwisle, T.J. (1996). *Flora of Victoria. Volume 2. Ferns and Allied Plants, Conifers and Monocotyledons*. Inkata Press, Melbourne.

## Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species & Marine Section records, December 2013)



### 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Cleveland, Cressy, Jacobs, Nile.

Date last modified: 17/12/2013

### View

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

### Contact details

Threatened Species and Marine Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 6165 4340; fax (03) 6233 3477.

### Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.