

# *Poa poiformis* var. *ramifer*



*Poa poiformis* var. *ramifer*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

**FAMILY:** POACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Poa poiformis* var. *ramifer*, D.I.Morris, *Muelleria* 7(2): 169 (1990)

**COMMON NAME:** Island purple grass

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

**TASMANIAN STATUS:** (TSP Act) delisted  
from rare April 2016

## Description

A tufted perennial up to 90 cm tall. **Stems:** The stems are circular, moderately stout, smooth (sometimes coarse below the inflorescence). **Leaves:** The leaf blades are rather thick and rigid. They can be tightly overlapping or sometimes flat and are up to 2 mm wide, usually yellowish-green and often exceeding the length of the stem. The sheaths surrounding the base of the leaves are smooth or rough, shining and occasionally purplish. The sheaths of the upper leaves are green or rarely purplish. **Seedhead (panicle):** The seedhead is up to 25 cm long and usually contracted, linear or occasionally spreading. The lower branches are often included in the uppermost leaf-sheath. The branches and flower stalks are coarse to the touch due to the presence of tiny hairs. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are usually pale green or straw coloured and can occasionally be tinted purple. They are between 6-10 mm long and 3-5 flowered. There are 2-4 leaf-like structures that surrounding the spikelets (glumes), which are unequal. **Seed cover (lemma):** The seed cover is between 4-5 mm long and flattened. Most herbarium specimens have been collected from November to December. **Confusing species:** *Poa poiformis* var. *ramifer* varies from *Poa poiformis* var. *poiformis* as it branches from the lower nodes with the sheaths and internodes often being purple. The stem is frequently up to 2.5 mm in diameter at the lower internodes (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). *Poa poiformis* was previously known as *Poa billardierei* (*sensu* Rodway 1903).

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria. In Tasmania, *Poa poiformis* var. *ramifer* is found on shores and offshore islands around the coast on sand dunes and in rocky habitats (Curtis & Morris 1994).

## **Key Sites and Populations**

Key sites include Southport Island, Seacrow Islet, Penguin Islet, Swan Island, Cone Island (1st Island south of Curtis Island), South West Island, Rodondo Island, West Moncoeur, East Moncoeur Island, Curtis Island, Curtis Group, Devils Tower, Round Islet, Hogan Group, East Islet, Hogan Group, North East Island, Kent Group, Craggy Island, Sterile Island, 8 km E of Recherche Bay, Actaeon Island, Round Top Island, Nine Mile Beach near Point Bagot, Snake Island, D'Entrecasteaux Channel, South Pasco Island (west of Flinders Island) and Marble Cliffs on the Lower Gordon River.

## **Known Reserves**

Reserved in the Actaeon Island Game Reserve, Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area, Curtis Island Nature Reserve, Devils Tower Nature Reserve, Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, Kent Group National Park, Rodondo Island Nature Reserve, Southwest National Park and the Three Hummock Island State Reserve.

## **Ecology and Management**

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

## **Conservation Status Assessment**

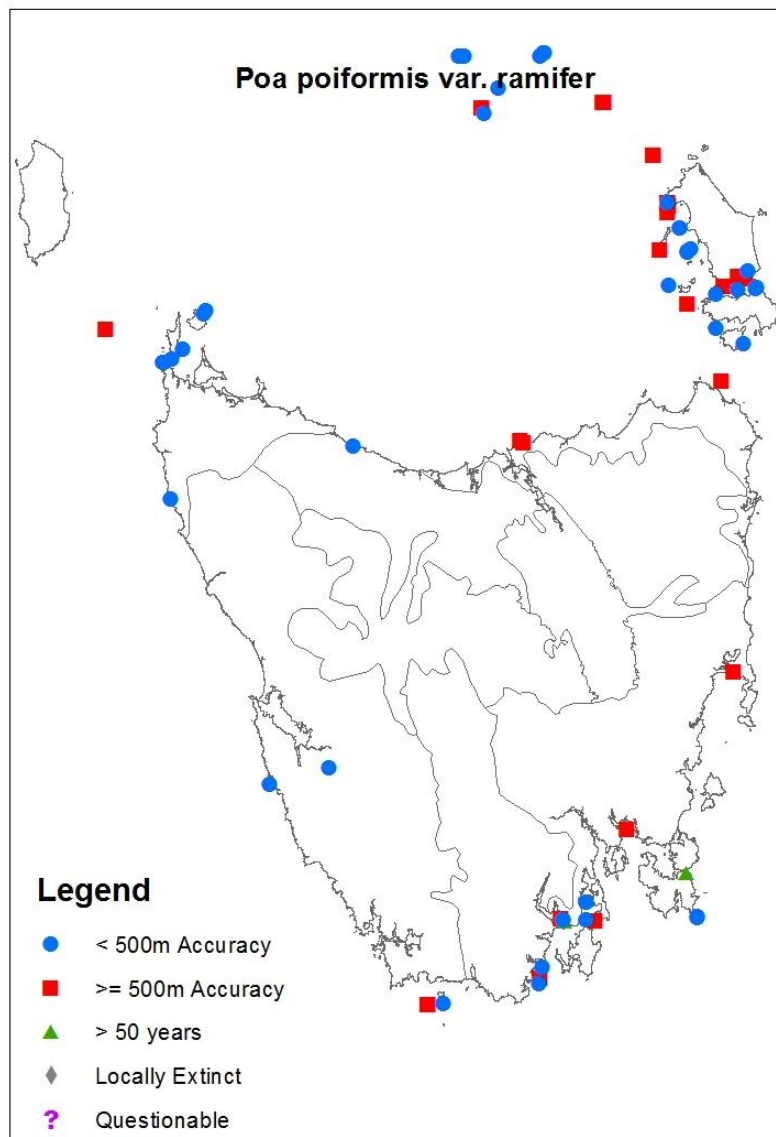
Due to its widespread distribution and large number of populations and individuals resulting from new observations since the time of listing, the conservation status of *Poa poiformis* var. *ramifer* was reassessed, resulting in the species being delisted from schedules of the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* in April 2016.

## **Further Information**

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Harris, S, Buchanan, A & Connolly, A 2001, *One Hundred Islands: The Flora of the Outer Furneaux*, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.

## Tasmanian Distribution (showing IBRA bioregions)

(As per Threatened Species Section records, May 2015)



Date last modified: 4/5/2016

### Contact details

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