

Austrostipa blackii



Austrostipa blackii.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: POACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Austrostipa blackii*,
(C.E.Hubb.) S.W.L.Jacobs & J.Everett,
Telopea 6(4): 584 (1996)

COMMON NAME: crested speargrass

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A tufted, perennial grass up to 1.3 metres tall. **Stem:** The stems are circular, ribbed, smooth and hairless and may be silky on the ends just below the nodes (stem joints). **Leaves:** The blades are up to 45 cm long and 3 mm wide (when flattened), inrolled and rough to the touch, bearing stiff, bristle-like hairs. The sheaths surrounding the base of the leaves are finely ribbed. The lower sheaths are rough and hairy with the upper sheaths being smooth and hairless. **Seedheads (panicle):** The panicle is up to 25 cm long and few-flowered. The branches and flower stalks are covered with tiny rough hairs and are rough to the touch. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The leaf-like structures that surround the spikelets (glumes) are unequal with sparse tiny hairs and expanded around the floret tapering towards the top. The point of the glume is clear. The lower glume is longer than the upper glume. Flowering is predominantly from November to January (Flora of Victoria). **Seed cover (lemma):** The seed cover is smooth towards the bottom and covered in tiny hairs towards the top, which are white and approximately 1 mm long – they are longer towards the base of the seed cover. The long hair-like structure protruding from the seed cover (awn) is around 35-48 mm long (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected from October to March. **This species was previously known as *Stipa blackii*.**

Ecology and Management

Some records of this species may belong to an unusual but not uncommon form of *Austrostipa stuposa*.

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

Conservation Status Assessment

There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Austrostipa blackii*. This species is likely to be under-recorded due to identification issues and it is likely that some unvouchered records have been misidentified.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.

Preceding text last modified 2/9/2003.

Following updated 15/9/2016.

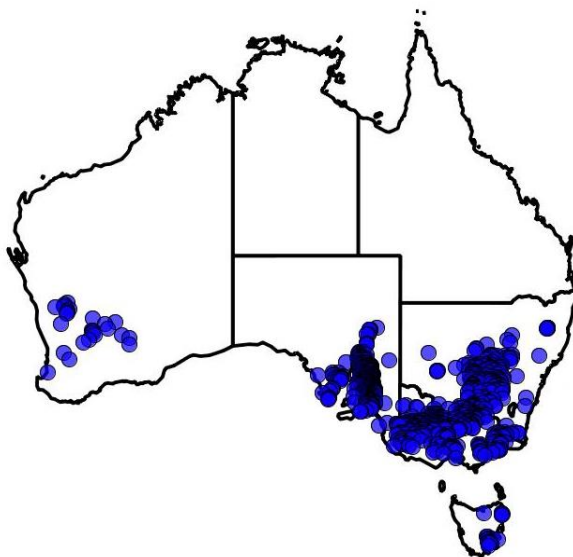
Survey Time and Habitat Guide (*black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records*)

<i>Austrostipa blackii</i>	Spring						Summer						Autumn				Winter							
crested speargrass	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A

- Flowering of this tall perennial grass is predominantly from November to January (Flora of Victoria). Mature inflorescences are required for identification. Most herbarium specimens have been collected from late December to March, the recommended timing for surveys. Flower spike remnants with seed may allow identification at other times of the year. Intergradation with other species may confuse identification.
- In Tasmania, *Austrostipa blackii* is a species of very near-coastal sites such as the margins of saline lagoons, creek outfalls and vegetated dunes. Further inland, where the species seems to grade into other species, it occurs in open grassy woodlands.

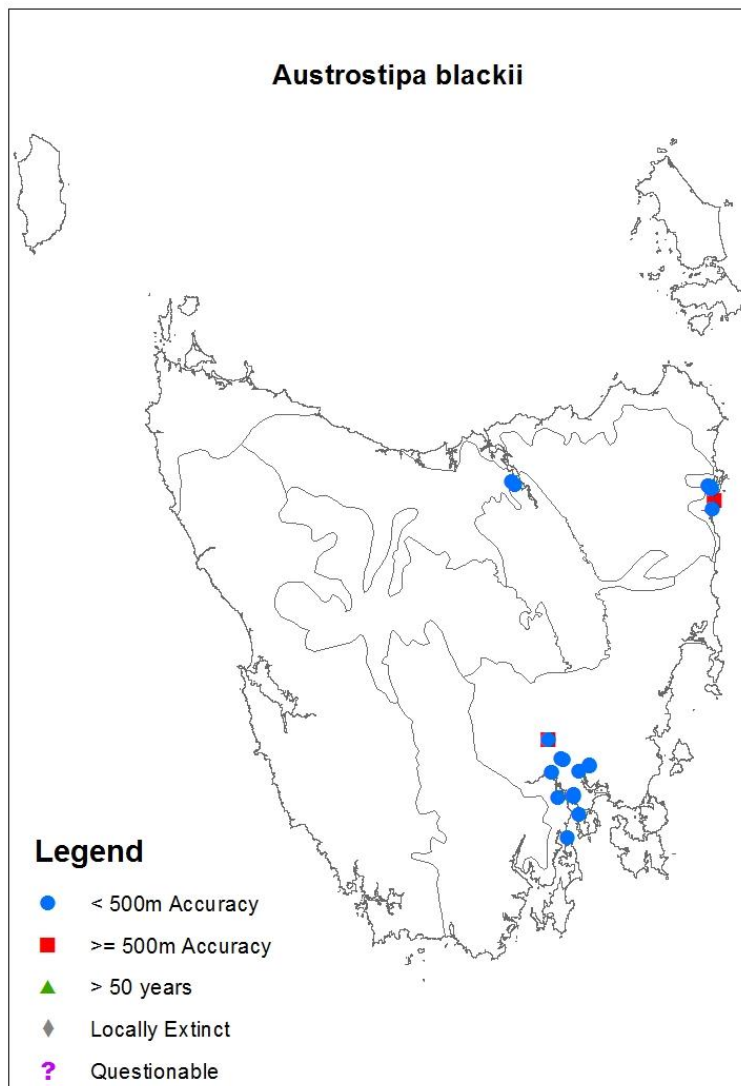
Distribution

(Atlas of Living Australia 14/9/2016)



Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Austrostipa blackii (crested speargrass)*. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.

View

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

Contact details

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

Permit

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