

# *Isolepis habra*



*Isolepis habra*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimens.

**FAMILY:** CYPERACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Isolepis habra*,  
(Edgar) Soják, *Casopsis Narodniho Muzea v  
Praze* 148: 194 (1980)

**COMMON NAME:** wispy clubsedge

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

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

## Description

A slender, perennial sedge with thread-like, soft stems and leaves. This species has a short creeping rhizome (underground stem) that forms tightly packed tufts. **Stems:** The stems are erect, circular, channelled and between 5-20 cm tall. **Leaves:** There are between 1-4 basal leaves per stem, the blades are usually shorter than the stems, but can sometimes be taller. The tips are rounded, the basal leaf sheaths (leaf-like structures encircling stem) are transparent and light brown (sometimes tinged purple). **Seedhead:** The seedhead usually consists of a solitary spikelet, sometimes there are 2 together. Occasionally vegetative buds are borne in place of the flowers. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The bracts (leaf-like structures associated with the flowers) are longer than the spikelet/s, which are between 2.5-3.5 mm long and oval in shape. The leaf-like structures surrounding the spikelet (glumes) are egg-shaped to elliptical. The glumes have membranous sides and are cream coloured or splashed with brownish-purple or they can be wholly dark brownish-purple with cream veins. Flowering is from spring to summer (Flora of Victoria). **Seed (nut):** The nut is broad and triangular, between 1-1.5 mm long and pale coloured (straw-like) but can occasionally be darker. The surfaces are smooth but a tiny network of veins is visible under magnification (description from Curtis & Morris 1994).

## Ecology and Management

Little is known regarding the ecology of this species, except that it can recover vegetatively (TPLUC 1996).

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 *Isolepis habra*.



**Further Information**

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1991, *Tasmanian Native Bush: A Management Handbook*, Tasmanian Environment Centre, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.

*Preceding text last modified 15/8/2003.*

*Following updated 30/11/2016.*

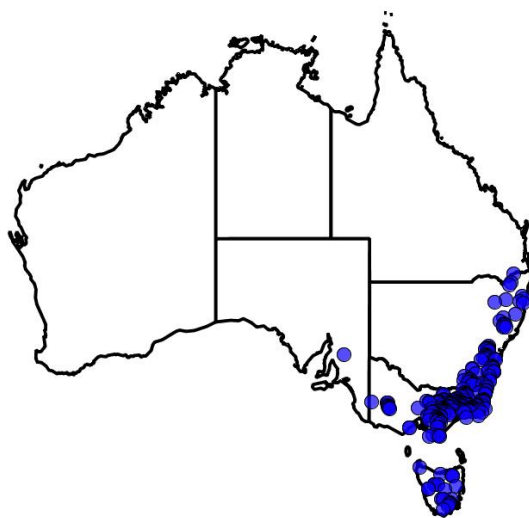
**Survey Time and Habitat Guide** (black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records)

<i>Isolepis habra</i>	Spring				Summer				Autumn			Winter												
wispy clubsedge	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A

- This slender, perennial sedge can be identified by its mature fruit which is generally present in spring to summer but can be present at other times of the year. Most herbarium specimens have been collected from December to March.
- In Tasmania, the habitat of *Isolepis habra* is poorly understood and variable as it occurs from lowland to highland sites in forest and non-forest habitats. Wet sclerophyll and riparian habitats may be preferred.

**Distribution**

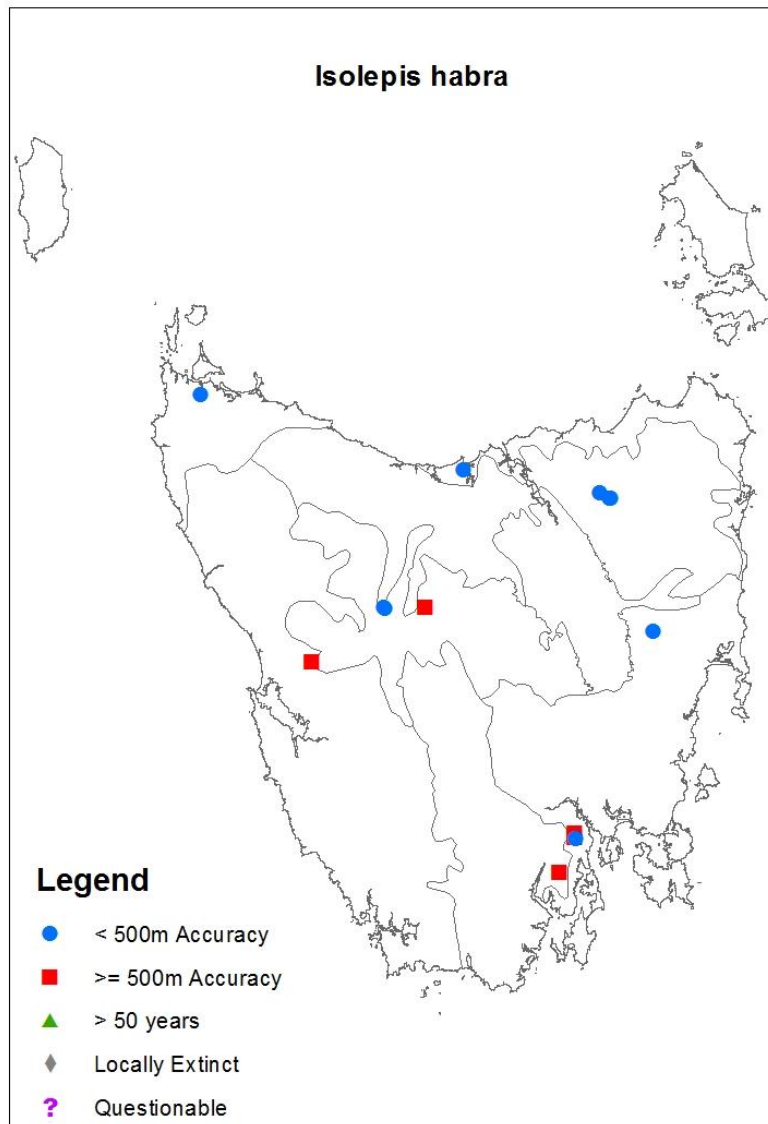
(Atlas of Living Australia 30/11/2016)  
The species also occurs in New Zealand.



**Known Reserves**

Reserved in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, Walls of Jerusalem National Park, Elizabeth River Conservation Area and Wellington Park.

**Tasmanian Distribution**  
(Natural Values Atlas May 2015)



**Cite as:**

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Isolepis habra (wispy clubsedge)*. 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.