

Austrostipa bigeniculata



Austrostipa bigeniculata
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: POACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Austrostipa bigeniculata*
(Hughes) S.W.L.Jacobs & J.Everett, *Telopea* 6(4): 584
(1996)

COMMON NAME: doublejointed speargrass

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not
Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A tufted perennial grass up to 1 metre tall that arises out of a tuft of basal leaves $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the overall height. **Stem:** The stem is circular, finely ribbed and smooth. The nodes (stem joints) are silky to the touch. **Leaves:** The leaves are tightly inrolled with blades up to 25 cm long. The lower stem leaves are covered with short dense hairs, with the upper stem leaves being smooth. The sheaths surrounding the base of the leaves are ribbed. The lower sheaths are hairy with the upper sheaths being smooth and hairless. **Seedheads (panicle):** The panicle is up to 40 cm long and with few flowers. The branches and flower stalks are covered with tiny rough hairs. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are green or purplish in colour and the leaf-like structures surrounding the spikelets (glumes) are broad and inflated around the floret. The lower glume is longer than the upper glume. Flowering is from November to January (Walsh & Entwisle 1994). **Seed cover (lemma):** The seed cover is reddish brown at maturity and approximately 1 mm long with a grainy surface and whitish hairs. The long hair-like structure protruding from the seed cover (awn) is around 40 mm long (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected from September to December. **This species was previously known as *Stipa bigeniculata*.**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland *Austrostipa bigeniculata* is known from New South Wales and Victoria. In Tasmania the species is found mainly in the southeast and midlands in open woodlands and grasslands, where it is often associated with *Austrostipa nodosa* (Curtis & Morris 1994).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites occur on the Forestier Peninsula, Maria Island, Midlands, Queens Domain, Hobart and south of St Helens near Beaumaris (TPLUC 1996).

Known Reserves

Not known from any formal reserve.

Ecology and Management

This species may benefit from disturbance in the form of grazing, mowing and slashing, however forest clearing adversely impacts upon *Austrostipa bigeniculata* (TPLUC 1996).

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

Conservation Status Assessment

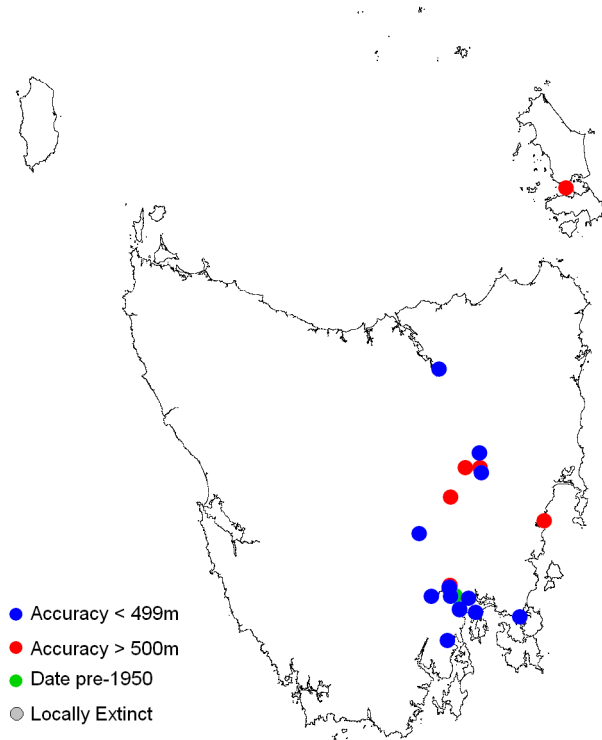
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Austrostipa bigeniculata*. This species is likely to be under-recorded due to identification issues and it is likely that some unvouchered records have been misidentified.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.
- Walsh, NG and Entwisle, TJ 1994, *Flora of Victoria. Volume 2. Ferns and allied plants, conifers and monocotyledons*, Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(From Natural Values Atlas records August 2008)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Anderson, Broadmarsh, Cawood, Hobart, Huonville, Interlaken, Jacobs, Launceston, Lisdillon, Murdunna, New Norfolk, Richmond, Ross.

Date last modified: 18/8/2008

View

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

Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries and Water, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 6233 6556; fax (03) 6233 3477.

Permit

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