

Baumea articulata



Baumea articulata.
N. Lawrence.

FAMILY: CYPERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Baumea articulata*,
(R.Br.) S.T.Blake, *Contr. Qld. Herb.* 8: 28
(1969)

COMMON NAME: Jointed twig rush

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (EPBC Act)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (TSP Act) rare

Description

A perennial rush. **Leaves:** The leaves originate from the base and are reduced to greyish, papery sheaths. The upper leaves have a soft hollow blade up to 120 cm long. **Stems:** The stems are up to 180 cm high and hollow. **Seedhead:** The branching seedhead is between 30–40 cm long and is loosely clustered with many flowers. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are approximately 5 mm long, oval and taper to a point at each end. They are red-brown in colour and have 1-3 flowers. There are 4-8 leaf-like structures that surround the spikelets (glumes), which are elongated and egg-shaped. They also taper to a point. Flowers appear from October to March. **Seed (nut):** The seed is approximately 3 mm long and triangular in cross-section. It is spindle-shaped and three-dimensional (description from Curtis & Morris 1994).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. It is also known from New Zealand and New Guinea. In Tasmania, *Baumea articulata* is found along rivers on the North-east Coast (Curtis & Morris 1994).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Jocks Lagoon, Windmill Lagoon, Matts Marsh, Bellingham, and Middleton Creek on the Freycinet Peninsula.

Known Reserves

Baumea articulata occurs in Freycinet National Park.

Ecology and Management

The ecology of this species is probably similar to *Baumea gunnii*, which can resprout after fire and other damage by reproducing vegetatively from rhizomes. Forest clearing has an adverse impact on *Baumea articulata* (TPLUC 1996).

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

Conservation status Assessment

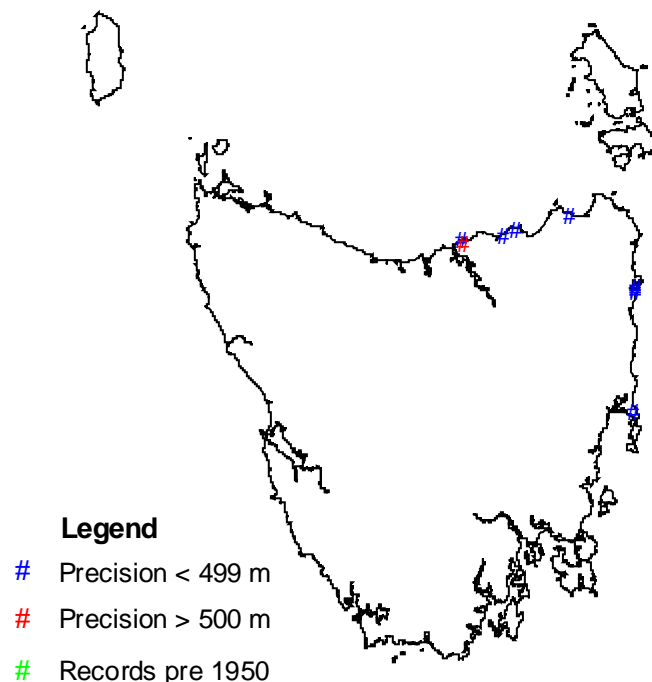
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Baumea articulata*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Jessop, JP & Toelken, HR 1986, *Flora of South Australia, Part IV (Alismataceae to Orchidaceae)*, South Australian Printing Division, Adelaide.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Bridport, Coles Bay, Low Head, St Helens, Tam O'Shanter, Tomahawk.

Date last modified: 02/09/03