

Carex capillacea



Carex capillacea.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: CYPERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Carex capillacea*,
Boott, *Ill. Gen. Carex* 1: 44, t.110 (1858)

COMMON NAME: Yellow-leaf sedge

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A slender, perennial sedge with short underground stems (rhizomes) that form small dense tufts (0.5 mm diameter and up to 20 cm tall). **Stems:** The stems are smooth and erect or curved (up to 20 cm tall and 0.5 mm in diameter). **Leaves:** The leaves are yellowish-green, shiny and quite flat (may inroll on drying). They can be erect or spreading and are shorter than the stem. The sheaths that surround the base of the leaves are pale brown. **Seedhead:** The seedhead is between 8-12 mm long and arranged in a solitary spike on a smooth stalk. The male part is approximately 1 mm broad and located along the top half of the seedhead. The female part is between 4-5 mm broad in the fruiting stage and found on the lower section of the seedhead. Flowering occurs in summer (Flora of Victoria). **Seed (nut):** The seed is dark brown, oval in shape and triangular in cross-section. There is a vein-like network running over the surface of each seed (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected from November to February.

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria and New South Wales. It is also known from New Zealand, the Himalayas (from Sikkim (India) to China), Japan, New Guinea, Malaysia, Celebes and the Philippines. In Tasmania, *Carex capillacea* is found in marshy habitat and short alpine herbfields associated with snow patches around the Central Highlands at altitudes of 600 -1400 metres. *Carex capillacea* has also been recorded from the north-west at Arm River flats (Curtis & Morris 1994, Kirkpatrick 1997).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Maggs Mountain Forest Reserve (off Arm River Road), Mother Lords Plains, Arm River Flats, Fourteen Mile Road at the confluence of Clarence River and Brown Marsh Creek, Mt. Geryon and Tarraleah.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and Maggs Mountain Forest Reserve.

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

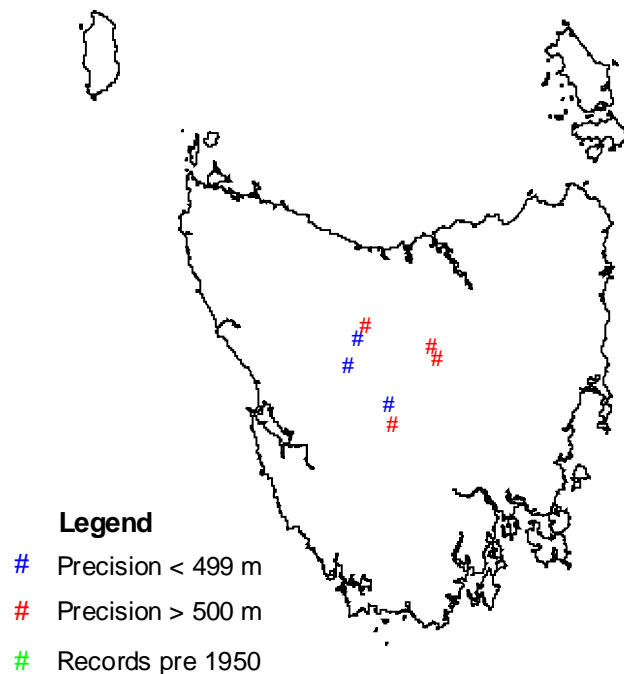
There is not enough information available to enable meaningful reassessment of *Carex capillacea*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1997, *Alpine Tasmania*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Borradaile, Bradys Lookout, D'Arcys, Du Cane, Poatina, Rowallan, Tarraleah.

Date last modified: 03/09/03