

# *Carex hypandra*



*Carex hypandra*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

**FAMILY:** CYPERACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Carex hypandra*,  
F.Muell. ex Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 7: 439  
(1878)

**COMMON NAME:** Dark fen sedge

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

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

## Description

A loosely tufted, perennial sedge with underground stems (rhizomes). **Stems:** The stems are erect, rigid and smooth (between 6-26 cm tall). **Leaves:** The leaves are grass-like, usually bluish-green and leathery in texture (between 1.2-3.5 mm broad). They are either v-shaped in cross-section or flat and can be shorter or longer than the flower head. **Seedhead:** There are between 4-6, mostly stalkless seedheads arranged in very narrow cylindrical spikes (up to 2.5 cm long). The upper most seedhead has female parts above and male parts below. **Fruit sacks:** The fruit sack is roughly oval in shape, compressed and tapers towards the tip. It is purplish-black in colour. Herbarium specimens have been collected in December. **Confusing species:** This species is similar to *Carex gaudichaudiana*, however differs in the sex composition of the uppermost flowerhead and has darker, shorter and more congested flowerheads. It is also similar to *Carex polyantha*, which has longer and stalked flowerheads further down the stem (description from Curtis & Morris 1994, Kirkpatrick 1997).

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in New South Wales. The Tasmanian distribution is restricted to fen (regularly inundated wetlands or mire vegetation that develops where silts have been deposited) in the central and western mountains (Kirkpatrick 1997).

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include the Mt Eliza plateau and the Western Tiers.

## Known Reserves

Reserved in the Southwest National Park.

## Ecology and Management

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

## Conservation Status Assessment

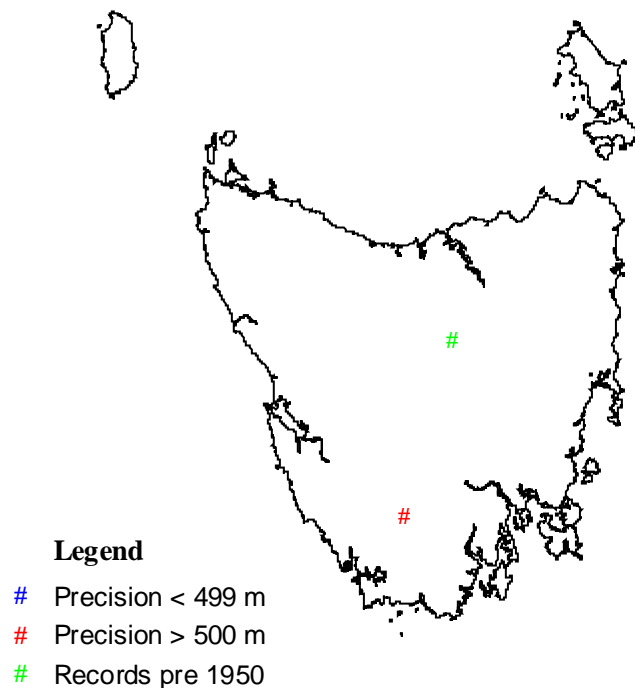
*Carex hypandra* may warrant uplisting though further survey may be required for a meaningful reassessment.

## 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

Anne, Poatina.

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