

Caustis pentandra



Caustis pentandra.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: CYPERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Caustis pentandra*,
R.Br., *Prodr. Fl. Nov. Holland.*: 240 (1810)

COMMON NAME: thick twistsedge

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

This scrambling sedge has a brown, shining rhizome (underground stem) that creeps along the ground and is approximately 3-5 mm in diameter. **Stem:** The stems are erect or sloping upward, circular and up to 70 cm tall and 1-2.5 mm in diameter, sometimes with two arising from the same sheath. Often there are two or more branches at each node (stem joint). **Leaves:** The sheaths surrounding the base of the leaves are up to 3 cm long, purplish brown in colour with longitudinal stripes and hairs on the inside. **Seedhead:** The seedhead is branched. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The individual parts of the seedhead are red-brown, between 9-13 mm long and in pairs of 2 flowers towards the tips of the branches. One has no stalk and one has a short stalk attaching it to the main stem. Each pair has one sheathing bract at the base, which resembles the leaf-like structures surrounding the spikelets (glumes). There are 4 glumes, the lowest three with spreading tips and hairy insides. The fourth is represented by a very reduced glume inserted above the fertile floret. The male floret, when present is found inserted within the third glume. **Seed (nut):** The seed is not seen but is reported to be between 4-7 mm long and is apparently a yellowish-brown colour (description from Curtis & Morris 1994).

Ecology and Management

This species does not appear to be susceptible to root rot (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*). 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 *Caustis pentandra*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.

Preceding text last modified 3/9/2003.

Following updated 21/9/2016.

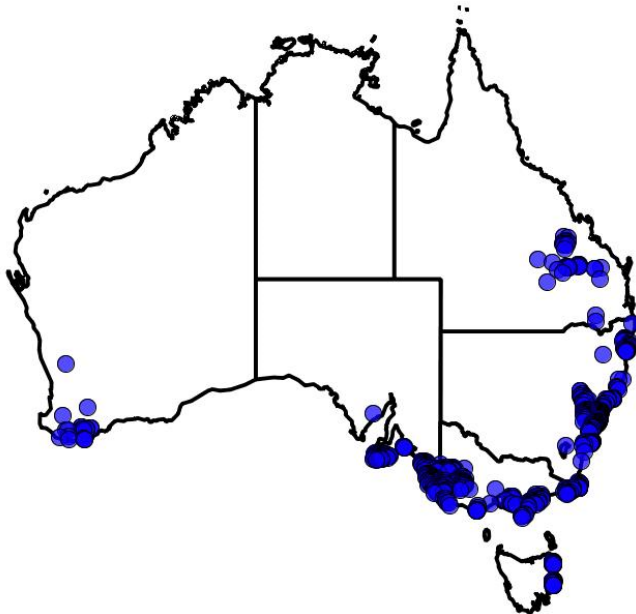
Survey Time and Habitat Guide (*black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records*)

<i>Caustis pentandra</i>	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter								
thick twist sedge	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 scrambling sedge can be detected at any time of the year.
- In Tasmania, *Caustis pentandra* is known from sandy soils derived from granite in coastal heathland and heathy woodland.

Distribution

(Atlas of Living Australia 15/9/2016)

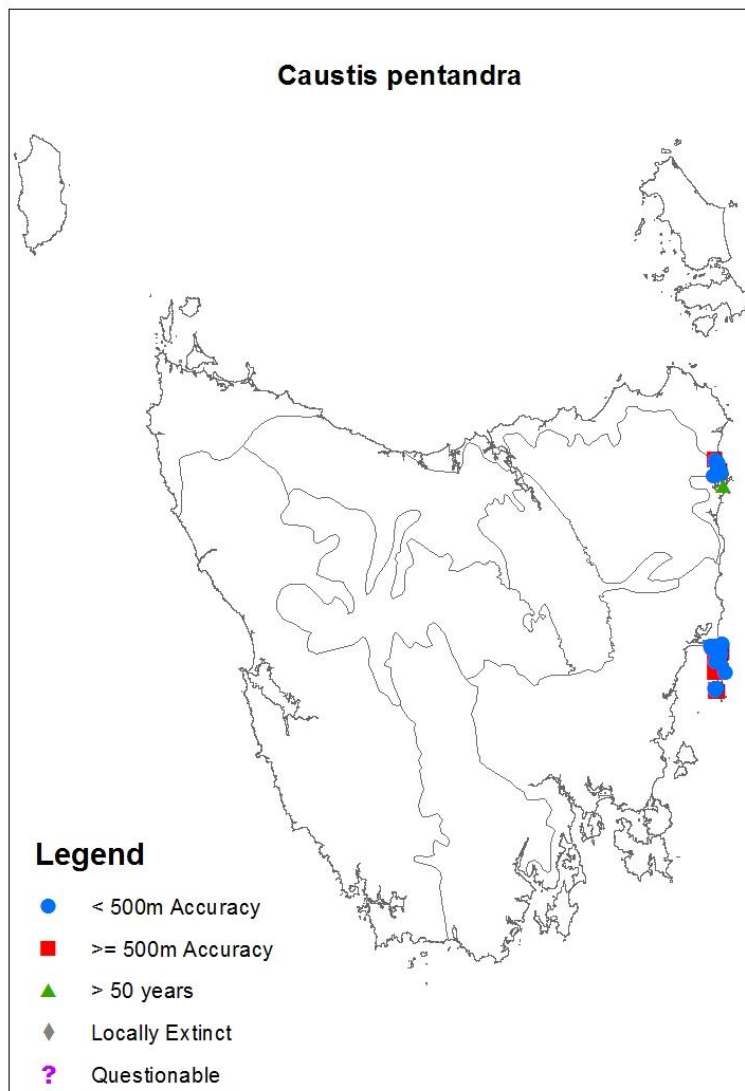


Known Reserves

Known from the Bay of Fires Conservation Area, Coles Bay Conservation Area, Freycinet National Park, Humbug Point Nature Recreation Area and Mount Pearson State Reserve. It also occurs on one private property in an area covered by a conservation covenant under the *Tasmanian Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

Tasmanian Distribution

(Natural Values Atlas May 2015)



Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Caustis pentandra (thick twistsedge)*. 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.