

Deschampsia gracillima



FAMILY: POACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Deschampsia gracillima*,
Kirk, *J. Bot.* 29: 237 (1891)

COMMON NAME: Slender hair grass

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Deschampsia gracillima.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

Description

A densely tufted perennial grass (up to 5 cm tall). **Stems:** The stems are smooth and much longer than the leaves. **Leaves:** The leaf blades are up to 1.5 cm long, erect, bluntly pointed, bristly and bent like a bow. The sheaths that surround the base of the leaves are transparent. **Seedhead:** The seedhead is erect with smooth branches, each bearing a single unit of the seedhead (spikelet). The spikelets are approximately 3.5 mm long. The spikelets have leaf-like structures that surround them (glumes), and in this species they are slightly shorter than the spikelets. The glumes are unequal in length. **Seed cover (lemma):** The seed cover is approximately 2 mm long with a short hair-like projection arising from the tip (approximately 0.5 mm long). The seed cover is golden brown at maturity and the tip is toothed (description from Curtis & Morris 1994, Kirkpatrick 1997). Herbarium specimens have been collected in January.

Distribution and Habitat

This species does not occur on the mainland, and apart from Tasmania is found only in New Zealand. *Deschampsia gracillima* has been collected from fjeldmark (scattered ground-dwelling shrubs and cushion plants which are growing amongst large amounts of exposed stony ground) in the southern ranges (Kirkpatrick 1997).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for *Deschampsia gracillima* are found at Maxwell Ridge and Moonlight Ridge near Mt La Perouse.

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

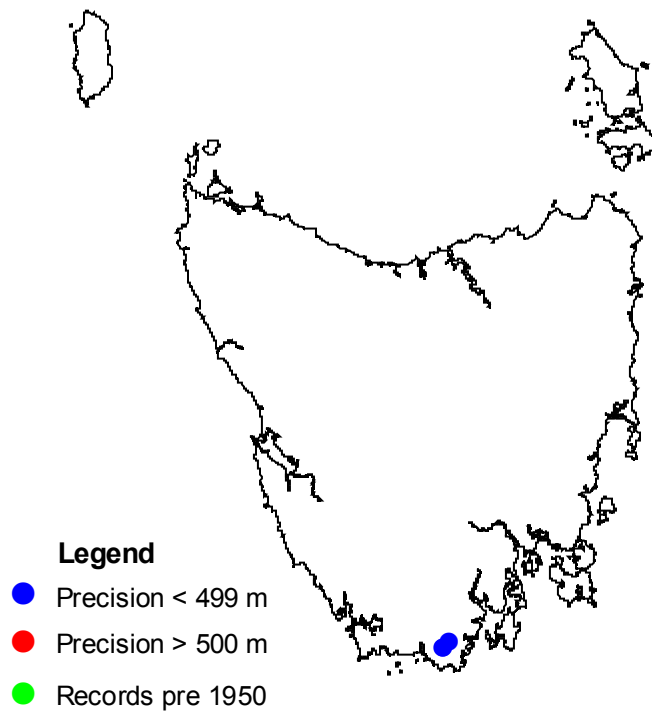
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Deschampsia gracillima*.

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

Leprena, Precipitous.

Date last modified: 03/09/03