

# *Deyeuxia brachyathera*



*Deyeuxia brachyathera*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

**FAMILY:** POACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Deyeuxia brachyathera*,  
(Stapf) Vickery, *Contr. N.S.W. Natl. Herb.* 1: 68  
(1940)

**COMMON NAME:** Short bent grass

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

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

## Description

An erect, stout and hairless perennial that reaches up to 100 cm tall. **Stem:** The stem is finely ribbed and covered with tiny rough hairs below the nodes (stem joints) and the flower inflorescence. **Leaves:** The blades are flat, linear and taper to a fine point. They measure up to 10 cm long and 5 mm wide. The blades have tiny rough hairs on the ribs, the lower surface and on the margins of the leaves. The sheaths surrounding the base of the leaves are ribbed with a prominent midrib. **Seedheads (panicle):** The panicle is linear-shaped and sometimes lobed, growing up to 18 cm long and 3 cm wide. The branches are clustered, erect or nearly so and unequal, the shorter ones with spikelets throughout their length, the longer branches are bare in the lower half. The flower stalks, branches and axils of the inflorescence are covered in tiny rough hairs. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelet is between 4-7 mm long and green or purplish in colour. The leaf-like structures that surround the spikelet (glumes) are approximately equal in length; the lower glume is up to 1 mm shorter than the upper. Flowering is from November to April (Flora of Victoria). **Seed cover (lemma):** The seed cover equals the upper glume in length, is lance-shaped in outline and tapers into a point. The upper half is covered in tiny rough hairs and the lower half is usually smooth and can be shiny. The long hair-like projection (awn) is inserted 1-1.5 mm below the top of the seed cover. It is fairly stout, bent sharply downwards, covered in tiny rough hairs and between 4-7 mm long (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected from January to May.

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland, this species occurs in Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania, *Deyeuxia brachyathera* is found in dry sclerophyll forest and wet moors and soaks within highland grasslands (Curtis & Morris 1994).

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Minto Plain, northeast of Mt. Foster, Thomas Plains, Weldborough (between Scottsdale and St Helens), McKerrows Marsh, Sandbanks Tier, Derwent River and the Lake St. Clair area.

## Known Reserves

Reserved in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, Great Western Tiers Conservation Area and St Pauls Regional Reserve.

## Ecology and Management

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

## Conservation Status Assessment

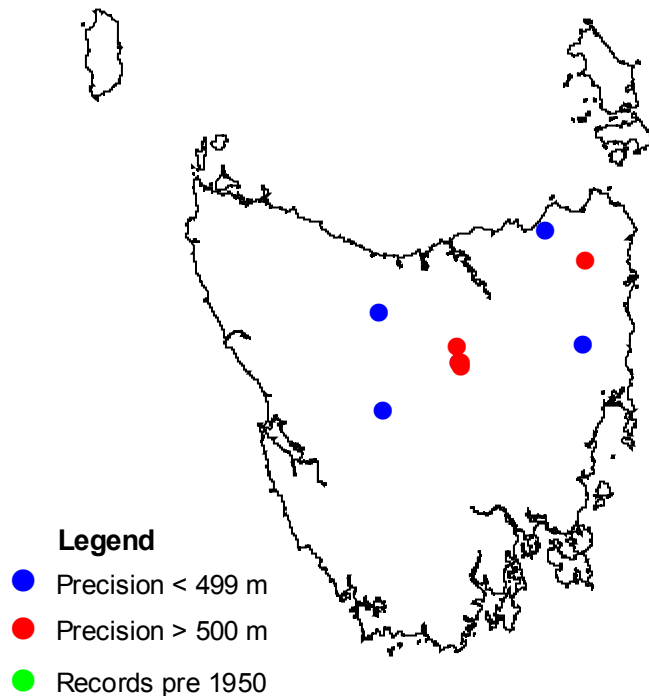
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Deyeuxia brachyathera*.

## Further Information

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

## Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



## 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Brady's Lookout, Cethana, Oxberry, Poatina, Ringarooma, Rufus, St Pauls Dome.

Date last modified: 03/09/03