

Dryopoa dives



Dryopoa dives.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: POACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Dryopoa dives*,
(F.Muell.) Vickery, *Contr. N.S.W. Natl. Herb.*
3(4): 196 (1963)

COMMON NAME: Giant mountain grass

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not
Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A tall, robust, coarse, tufted perennial up to 2 metres tall. Tasmanian plants appear to be smaller in all their parts than those in mainland States. **Stems:** The stems are circular, stout, striated (finely grooved) and covered in tiny rough hairs below the nodes (stem joints) and the inflorescence. The internodes (space between the stem joints) are longer than the leaf sheaths. **Leaves:** The blades are up to 40 cm long, flat, linear and taper into a fine point. The leaves are also marked with fine grooves and have a prominent midrib on the under surface. The sheaths surrounding the base of the leaves are marked with fine grooves and are covered in tiny rough hairs. The upper ones are loose. **Seedheads (panicle):** The panicle is broadly to narrowly pyramidal and between 20-50 cm long with half-spreading branches. The lower branches are often included in the uppermost leaf-sheath. The axis of the inflorescence (rachis) is smooth below and covered in tiny rough hairs above. The branches are bare and unbranched in the lower half. Both the branches and flower stalks are covered in tiny rough hairs. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are 3-4 flowered, plump, green and purple in colour and between 5-8 mm long. The leaf-like structures surrounding the spikelet (glumes) are approximately equal in length and purple with a wide clear tip. Flowering is from November to March (Flora of Victoria). **Seed cover (lemma):** The seed cover has a clear tip and is covered in tiny rough hairs. The seed cover measures between 4.5-5 mm long (description from Curtis and Morris 1994). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from December to February. **This species was previously known as *Festuca dives*.**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania, *Dryopoa dives* is recorded from Snug Plains and the East Coast (Curtis & Morris 1994).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Snug Plains and Snug Tiers (Grey Mountain, Razor Back and Slippery Creek), Margate and the Nicholls Rivulet catchment.

Known Reserves

Found only in the Snug Tiers Nature Recreation Area.

Ecology and Management

The low number of populations is the major threat to this species. *Dryopoa dives* persists through wildfire, fuel reduction burns, logging and road work (TPLUC 1996).

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

Conservation Status Assessment

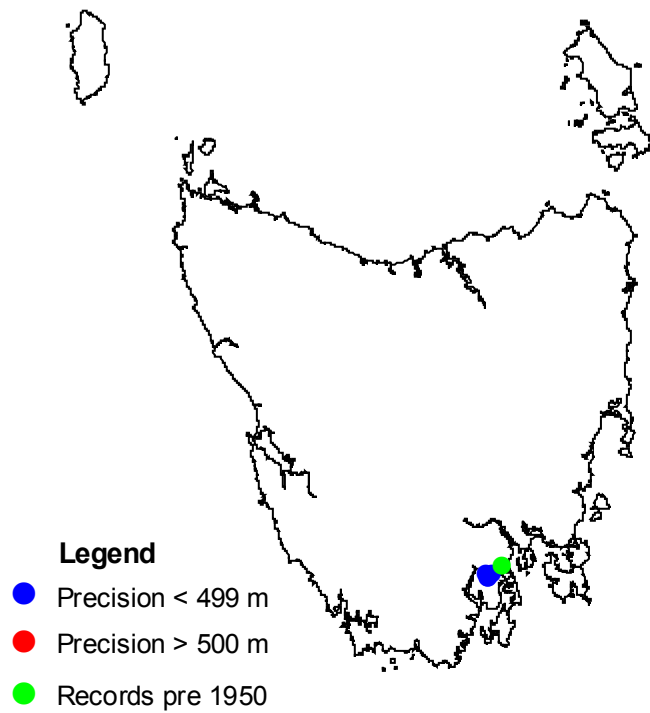
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Dryopoa dives*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Blackmans Bay, Cygnet, Huonville.

Date last modified: 03/09/03