

# *Schoenus brevifolius*



*Schoenus brevifolius*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

**FAMILY:** CYPERACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Schoenus brevifolius*,  
R.Br., *Prodr.* 231 (1810)

**COMMON NAME:** Zig zag bog sedge

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

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

## Description

A rush-like perennial with a stout, woody rhizome (underground stem) and overlapping, reddish-black, shining scale-leaves. **Stems:** The stems are erect, rigid and between 50-80 cm long. They are almost 2 mm in diameter and are circular with one narrow channel. **Leaves:** The leaves are reduced to 3-5 hard, oval-shaped sheaths at the base of the stem. These are reddish-black and have narrow, clear margins and a short, rigid point at the tip. **Seedheads (panicle):** The panicle is up to 20 cm long with clusters of 3-5 branchlets, the clusters have small bracts (leaf-like structures). The branchlets are unequal and slender with flattened margins. **Spikelets (seedhead):** The spikelets are solitary at the ends of the branchlets and narrow to oval with pointed tips. There are 7-10 glumes (leaf-like structures surrounding the spikelet), which are egg to lance shaped, pointed at the tips and reddish-brown in colour. Flowering is from spring to summer (Flora of Victoria). **Seed (nut):** The seed is cream to light red-brown and approximately 1.5 mm long, triangular in cross-section with narrow, rounded tips (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected from March to August.

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Western Australia. It is also found in New Caledonia and New Zealand. In Tasmania, *Schoenus brevifolius* grows in shallow water around the fringes of lagoons in the north-east (Curtis & Morris 1994).

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Waterhouse Road, Georges Bay and opposite new Coles Bay rubbish tip.

### **Known Reserves**

Reserved in the Coles Bay Conservation Area, Mount William National Park, Musselroe Bay Conservation Area and the Waterhouse Conservation Area.

### **Ecology and Management**

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

### **Conservation Status Assessment**

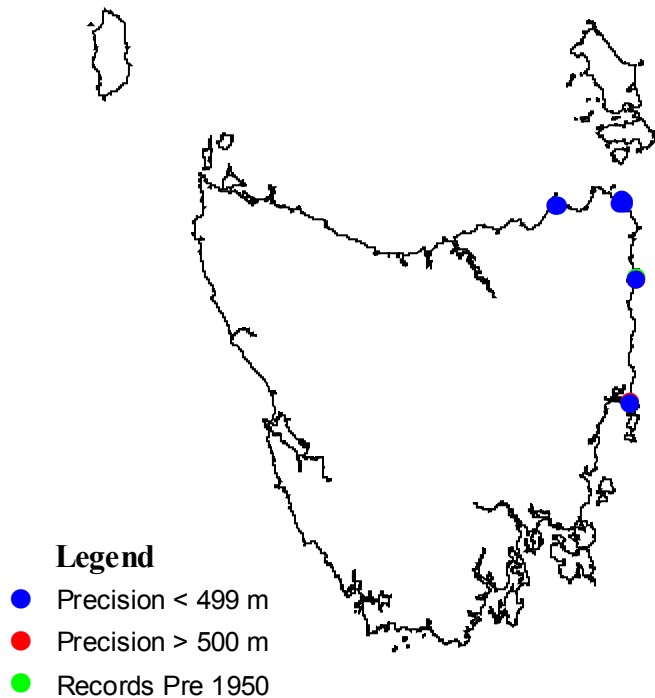
There is not enough information available to enable meaningful reassessment of *Schoenus brevifolius*, though the species may qualify for uplisting.

### **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**

Coles Bay, Musselroe, Naturaliste, St Helens, Waterhouse.

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