

# *Agrostis australiensis*



*Agrostis australiensis*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

**FAMILY:** POACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Agrostis australiensis*,  
Mez, *Feddes Repert.* 17: 302 (1921)

**COMMON NAME:** southern bent

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

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

## Description

An erect, slender and tufted grass that is hairy and up to 20 cm tall. **Stems:** The stems are slender and smooth with worn and jagged margins. **Leaves:** The leaf blades are up to 5 cm long and are narrow, tapering from the base to the tip. They are also circular in cross-section and minutely rough to the touch. The sheaths surrounding the base of the leaves are ribbed, becoming loose with age. **Seedhead (panicle):** The panicle is up to 8 cm long with branches that are initially somewhat erect, however they become pyramid shaped at maturity. The panicle is sparsely flowered. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are between 2.2-3 mm long and green or purplish in colour. The leaf-like structures that surround the spikelets (glumes) are equal or slightly unequal with the lower one being longer. Flowering is from December to February (Flora of Victoria). **Seed cover (lemma):** The seed cover is between 1.7-2 mm long, membranous and in some florets the seed bears a hair-like structure (awn) that is weakly erect or slightly bent (description from Curtis & Morris 1994).

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland, this species occurs in Victoria and New South Wales. It is apparently uncommon in Tasmania, however this could be due to difficulty in identification (D. Morris pers. comm.). This species occurs in moist, open areas and is often found around crevices or on cliff faces. It has been collected in alpine regions and also wet forests. Records are predominantly from the Central Highlands.

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Penstock Lagoon east of Crisps Point, Mother Lords Plain, Liffey Bluff, Warragarra Creek, Zion Vale at the Walls of Jerusalem, Lake Dudley, Wild Dog Tier, St Patricks Plains, Second Bar Lake, Picketts Plain, Mt. Inglis, The Misty Voide near Marakoopa Cave, the summit of Wylds Craig, Cowpaddock Bay.

### **Known Reserves**

*Agrostis australiensis* is known from the Central Plateau Conservation Area, Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, Crayfish Creek Forest Reserve, Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, Mole Creek Karst National Park, Walls of Jerusalem National Park

### **Ecology and Management**

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

### **Conservation Status Assessment**

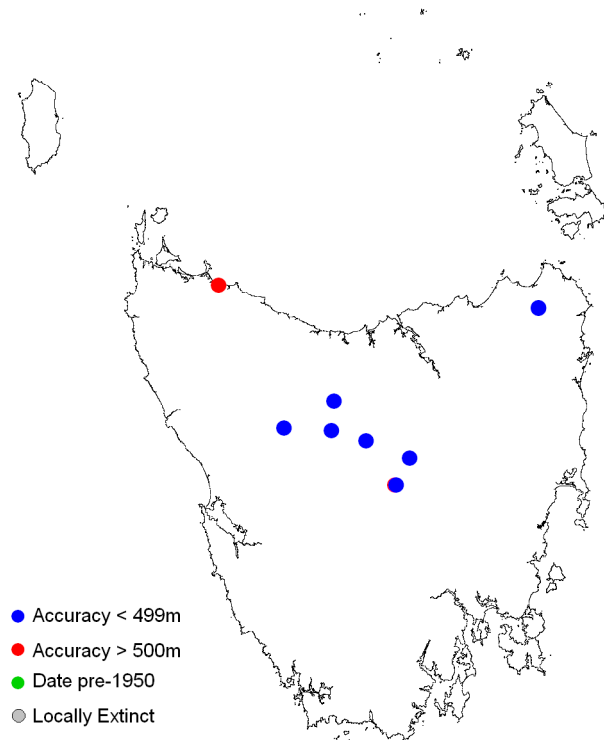
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Agrostis australiensis*.

### **Further Information**

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

## Tasmanian Distribution

(From Natural Values Atlas records, July 2008)



### 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Pioneer, Steppes, Rocky Cape, Will, Mole Creek, Rowallan, Arthurs Lake, Split Rock.

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View

<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

### Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries and Water, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 6233 6556; fax (03) 6233 3477.

### Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.