

# *Bolboschoenus caldwellii*



*Bolboschoenus caldwellii*. V. Thorp.

**FAMILY:** CYPERACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Bolboschoenus caldwellii*,  
(V.Cook) Soják, *Cas. Nár. Mus. Odd. Prir.* 141:  
62 (1972)

**COMMON NAME:** Sea club-rush

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

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

## Description

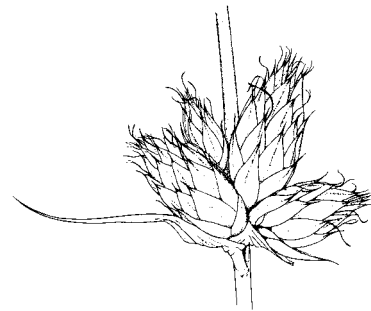
A perennial sedge between 30-90 cm tall. **Underground section:** The underground parts consist of woody, horizontal underground stems. Often enlarged sections of the roots are present (tubers), which are spherical in shape and up to 2.5 cm in diameter. **Stems:** The stems are lime-green and usually grow in a dense cluster between 30-90 cm high. The stems are triangular in cross-section. **Leaves:** The leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. They have long, closed, leathery sheaths with spreading blades up to about 35 cm long and 5 mm wide tapering into a point. **Seedhead:** The seedheads are compact heads of 2-6 spikelets (units) near the stem tip, chestnut brown in colour. Flowering is throughout the year but mainly in October to April. **Seed (nut):** The seeds are approximately 3.5 mm long, broadly egg-shaped in outline and flattened but thick. The edges are rounded and greenish to golden brown (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). **This species includes taxa previously known as *Scirpus caldwellii* and *Scirpus maritimus* (sensu Rodwayi 1903).**

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia, West Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. It is also known from New Zealand. In Tasmania, *Bolboschoenus caldwellii* is widespread in shallow, standing, sometimes brackish water, rooted in heavy black mud (Curtis & Morris 1994).

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Goulds Lagoon, Otago Lagoon, Little Waterhouse Lake and the Jordan River.



*Bolboschoenus caldwellii* seedhead.  
D. Morris.

### **Known Reserves**

This species is reserved in Kate Reed Nature Recreation Area, Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve, South Arm Conservation Area, Strzelecki National Park, Tamar River Conservation Area, Township Lagoon Nature Reserve and the Waterhouse Conservation Area

### **Ecology and Management**

*Bolboschoenus caldwellii* can reproduce vegetatively from rhizomes (underground horizontal stems). It is probably similar to *Bolboschoenus medianus*, which persists after grazing and general disturbance (TPLUC 1996).

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

### **Conservation Status Assessment**

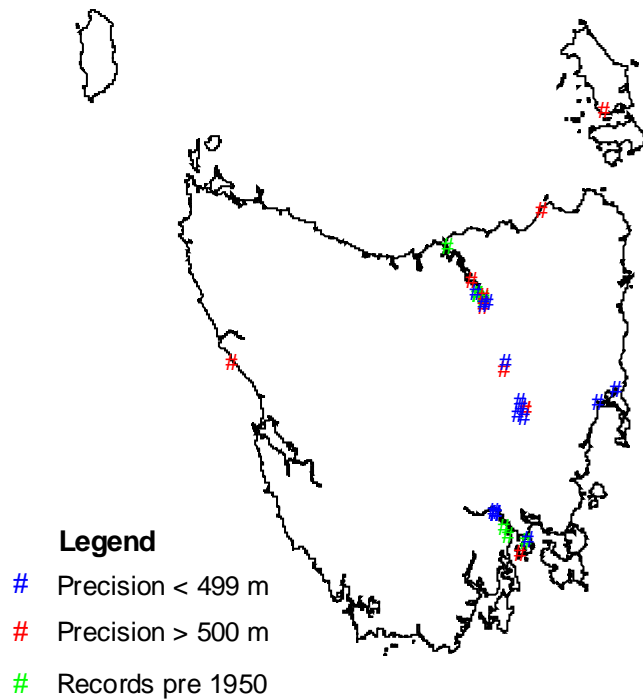
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Bolboschoenus caldwellii*.

### **Further Information**

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Jessop, JP & Toelken, HR 1986, *Flora of South Australia, Part IV (Alismataceae to Orchidaceae)*, South Australian Printing Division, Adelaide.
- 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

Ahrberg, Bell Bay, Blackmans Bay, Conara, Cranbrook, Cremorne, Dilston, Ellinthorp, Hobart, Launceston, Loccota, Lodi, New Norfolk, Prospect, Taroona, Tunbridge, Waterhouse.

Date last modified: 02/09/03