

Bolboschoenus medianus



Bolboschoenus medianus.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: CYPERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Bolboschoenus medianus*,
(V.Cook) Soják, *Cas. Nár. Mus. Odd. Prir.* 141:
63 (1972)

COMMON NAME: Marsh club-rush

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not
Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A perennial sedge between 30-60 cm high. **Underground section:** A woody horizontal underground stem with enlarged sections of root (tubers), which are spherical in shape. **Stems:** The stems are lime-green and usually grow in a dense cluster. They are between 30-90 cm high and triangular in cross-section. **Leaves:** The leaves are arranged alternately all the way up the stem. The leaf blades spread widely and are approximately 30 cm long and 5 mm wide. They taper to a point. The stems also have long, closed, leathery sheaths. **Seedhead:** The seedhead is a compact head of 1-6 spikelets (units) near the stem tip. Flowering occurs from February to May. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are egg-shaped, between 1-2 cm long and mid-brown. **Seed (nut):** The nut is between 3-4 mm long and oval-shaped. They are either triangular in cross-section or flattened. The nut is greyish-black and shiny (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected from October to February. **This species was previously known as *Scirpus fluviatilis* (sensu J.H.Willis 1973).**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. It is also known from New Zealand and New Guinea. In Tasmania, *Bolboschoenus medianus* inhabits the margins of lagoons where it is often rooted in heavy black mud. It predominantly occurs in the Midlands (Curtis & Morris 1994).

Key Sites and Populations

There are two populations of this species, one in the Midlands and the other on the Tamar River. An unconfirmed record exists from Currie Harbour on King Island (TPLUC 1996).

Known Reserves

This species is reserved in the Township Lagoon Nature Reserve, Tunbridge.

Ecology and Management

Bolboschoenus medianus can reproduce vegetatively from rhizomes (underground horizontal stems). It 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

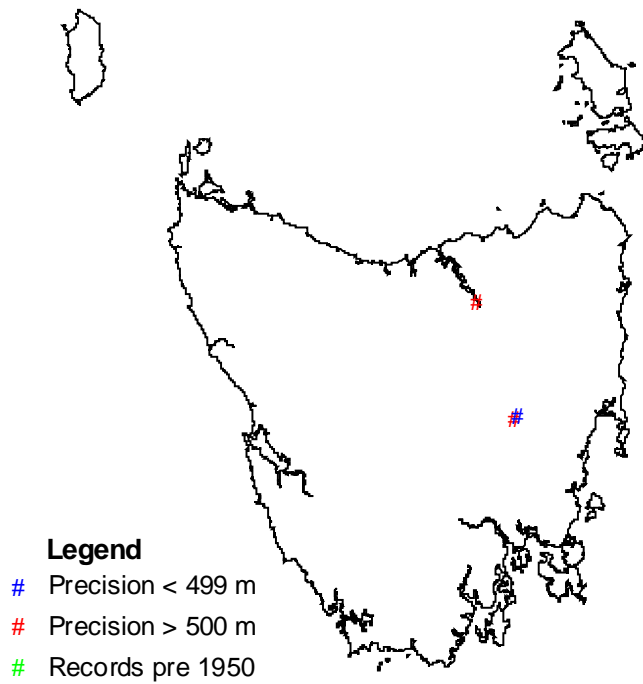
Bolboschoenus medianus should be reassessed due to the low number of records though more information may be required for a meaningful reassessment.

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, March 2003).



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Launceston. Tunbridge.

Date last modified: 02/09/03