

# *Baumea gunnii*



*Baumea gunnii*.  
D. Morris & R. Hale.

**FAMILY:** CYPERACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Baumea gunnii*,  
(Hook.f.) S.T.Blake, *Contr. Qld. Herb.* 8:  
27 (1969)

**COMMON NAME:** Slender twig rush

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

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

## Description

A perennial sedge. **Leaves:** The leaves are between 20-70 cm long and 1-1.75 mm in diameter. They originate from the base and are round and reed-like, tapering into a point at the tip and containing loose pith. **Stems:** The round or slightly flattened stems are leafless and between 20-70 cm long and 1-1.25 mm in diameter. **Seedhead:** The branches of the seedhead are short, erect and between 2.5-24 cm long. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are between 4-6 mm long, spindle-shaped when young and tapering at each end. The leaf-like structures surrounding spikelet (glumes) spread at maturity and are together in groups of 3. They are long and narrow, tapering at the ends. Flowering is from spring to summer (Flora of Victoria). **Seed (nut):** The seed is between 2.5-3.5 mm long, broad spindle shaped or almost spherical with a rounded tip (see illustration) (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). **This species was previously known as *Cladium gunnii*.**

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species is found in all States except in the Northern Territory. It is also known from New Guinea. In Tasmania, *Baumea gunnii* inhabits wet moors, creeks and riverbanks throughout the State (Curtis 1994).

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Lake St Clair, Remine, Adamsfield, Old Flagstaff Marsh, Apsley River, Brushy River, Ferntree Falls, Tooms Lake, Wye River, Lisdillon Rivulet (north of Little Swanport), Spring Bay (Triabunna), Flagstaff Marsh, and Buxton River (Mayfield).

## Known Reserves

Known from Adamsfield Conservation Area, Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, Doctors Peak Forest Reserve, Douglas-Apsley National Park, Ouse River Forest Reserve, Tooms Lake Forest Reserve and the Wye River State Reserve.

## Ecology and Management

*Baumea gunnii* can resprout after fire and other damage and reproduce vegetatively from rhizomes. Fire destroys the above-ground parts, but promotes regrowth. Forest clearing has adverse effects.

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

## Conservation Status Assessment

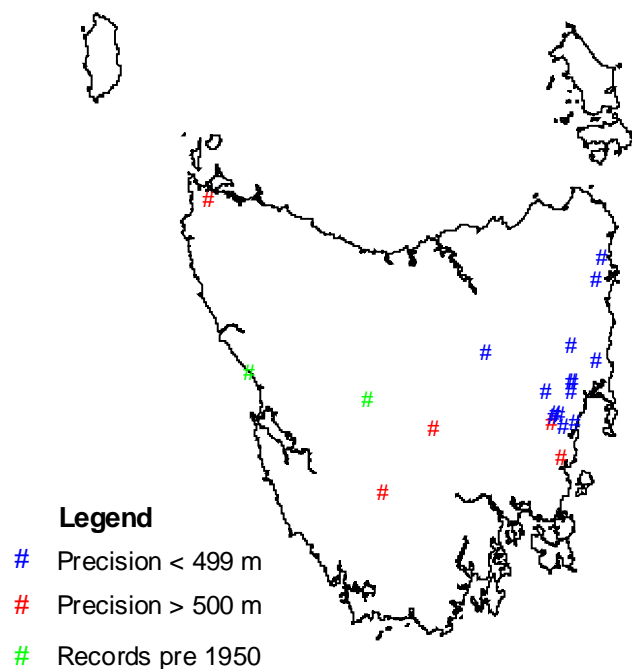
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Baumea gunnii*.

## 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

Adamsfield, Binalong, Cluny, Cranbrook, Delmont, Henry, Leake, Mayfield, Pyengana, Royalty, Rufus, St Pauls Dome, Studland, Tooms, Triabunna, Trial.

Date last modified: 02/09/03