

# *Agrostis* aff. *hiemalis*



*Agrostis* aff. *hiemalis*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium

**FAMILY:** POACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Agrostis* aff. *hiemalis*,  
(Walt.) Britton et al. (1888)

**COMMON NAME:** alpine winter bent

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

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

## Description

A tufted grass that grows up to 40 cm tall. **Leaves:** The leaves are flat or folded and measure up to 4 cm long and 1 mm wide. **Seedhead (Panicle):** The seedhead is widely pyramid shaped and has very fine branches, the whole inflorescence is between 12-30 cm long. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The main distinguishing feature is the small, purplish spikelets, which grow up to 2 mm long. Flowering is from November to April (Flora of Victoria). **Seed cover (lemma):** The seed cover is without a long hair-like projection (awn). **Confusing species:** *Agrostis* aff. *hiemalis* can resemble *Agrostis parviflora*, however *Agrostis* aff. *hiemalis* is a coarser plant with a larger seedhead than *Agrostis parviflora* (description from Kirkpatrick 1997, Walsh & Entwistle 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected between January and April. *Agrostis* aff. *hiemalis* (*sensu* Curtis & Morris 1994) and *Agrostis* aff. *scabra* (*sensu* Curtis & Morris 1994) have now been merged into *Agrostis propinqua*.

## Distribution and Habitat

*Agrostis* aff. *hiemalis* (*sensu* Curtis & Morris 1994) has been recorded from alpine fjældmark on Hartz Mountain, damp sclerophyll forests on moist, well-drained soils and from intermittent wetlands in the central highlands (Jacobs 2001, Kirkpatrick 1997).

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Lees Paddocks (Upper Mersey River), Ouse River (near Remarkable Rock) and Hartz Pass (Hartz Mountains National Park).

### **Known Reserves**

Reserved in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, Hartz Mountains National Park and the Remarkable Rock Forest Reserve.

### **Ecology and Management**

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

### **Conservation Status Assessment**

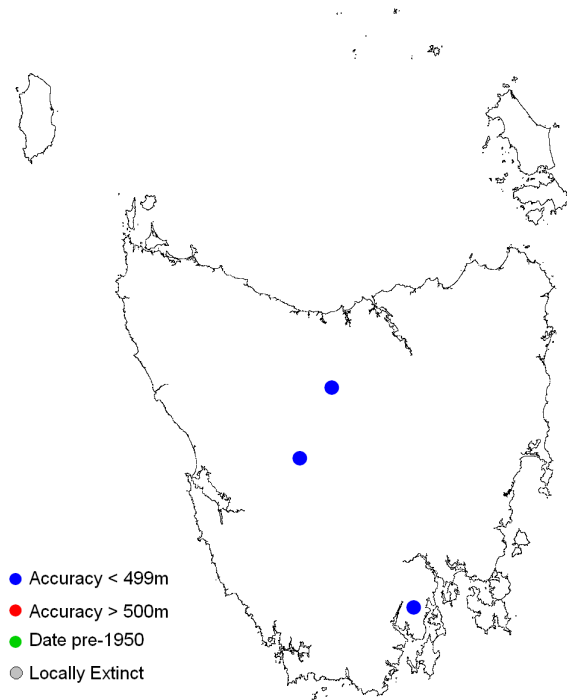
As part of a taxonomic review of *Agrostis* undertaken by S. Jacobs in 2001, specimens of *Agrostis* aff. *hiemalis* held at the Tasmanian Herbarium were merged with the more widespread and abundant *Agrostis* aff. *scabra* (*sensu* Curtis & Morris 1994) to form *Agrostis propinqua*. The late Dennis Morris of the Tasmanian Herbarium had reservations concerning this taxonomic treatment though should the treatment be confirmed or should *Agrostis* aff. *hiemalis* prove to be a highland form of *Agrostis* aff. *scabra* (*sensu* Curtis & Morris 1994), *Agrostis* aff. *hiemalis* could be considered for delisting. Given taxonomic difficulties within the group, *Agrostis* aff. *hiemalis* (*sensu* Curtis & Morris 1994) is likely to be unrecorded. One specimen previously attributed to *Agrostis* aff. *hiemalis* has since been redetermined to be *Agrostis stolonifera*.

### **Further Information**

- Jacobs, SWL 2001, Four New Species of *Agrostis* (Gramineae) from Australia, *Telopea*, Vol.9(3).
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1997, *Alpine Tasmania*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Walsh, NG & Entwistle, TJ eds 1994, *Flora of Victoria*, Volume 2, Inkata Press, Melbourne.

## Tasmanian Distribution

(Threatened Species Section data, 2009)



### 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Giblin, Huonville, Lake Mackenzie, Rufus

Date last modified: 30/7/2008

### 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.