

Agrostis diemenica



FAMILY: POACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Agrostis diemenica*,
D.I.Morris, *Telopea* 10(3): 765 (2004)

COMMON NAME: Flatleaf southernbent

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) rare

Agrostis diemenica.
Tasmanian Herbarium Specimen.

Description

A loosely tufted, hairless perennial grass (up to 35 cm tall). **Stems:** The stems are mostly smooth (sometimes rough to the touch just under the seedhead). **Leaves:** The leaf blades measure up to 12 cm long, 2 mm wide and are either flat or rolled inwards with rough upper and lower surfaces. The sheaths surrounding the base of the leaves are ribbed and quite loose. **Seedhead (panicle):** The seedhead is up to 10 cm long, and is initially partly enclosed in the uppermost leaf-sheath. The stiff branches are divided into two and appear bare closest to the point of attachment. The seedhead is sparse. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are loosely arranged at the tips of the secondary branches and are purplish in colour. The leaf-like structures that surround the spikelets (glumes) are slightly unequal in length, with the lower glume between 2-3 mm long and the upper glume 1.75-2.75 long. **Seed cover (lemma):** The seed cover is either shorter than or just longer than the glumes and is between 2-2.5 mm long (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected in January to March. **This taxon was previously known as *Agrostis aff. australiensis* (*sensu* Curtis & Morris 1994).**

Distribution and Habitat

This species is endemic to Tasmania. It has been recorded from Crayfish Creek, Dukes Marsh, west of Meadowbank on the edges of lakes, marshes and streams (TSU records 2002).

Key Sites and Populations

A key site for this species is Dukes Marsh.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Mount Bethune Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

During the preparation of *The Flora of Tasmania* (volume 4), several grass specimens did not fit the descriptions of any taxonomically defined species. These outliers were tagged under various 'aff.' names and subsequently aff. *hiemalis*, aff. *parviflora* and aff. *scabra* were included in the revision of four *Agrostis* species by Jacobs (2001). A fourth 'aff.' species, *Agrostis* aff. *australiensis*, was described as a new species, *Agrostis diemenica*, by Dennis Morris in 2004.

As indicated, the specimens of *Agrostis* aff. *australiensis* held at the Tasmanian Herbarium were merged into other species as part of the *Agrostis* review conducted by Jacobs (2001). One record was from Snake Plains and is now *Agrostis thompsoniae*, the other from Dukes Marsh has been allocated to *Agrostis bettyae*. After the Jacobs (2001) review there was only one record left tagged as *Agrostis* aff. *australiensis*, which was not a good match for any other *Agrostis* species. Dennis Morris reviewed this and also redetermined other *Agrostis* specimens resulting in the new species *Agrostis diemenica*. There are now 8 specimens held in the Tasmanian Herbarium attributed to *Agrostis diemenica*.

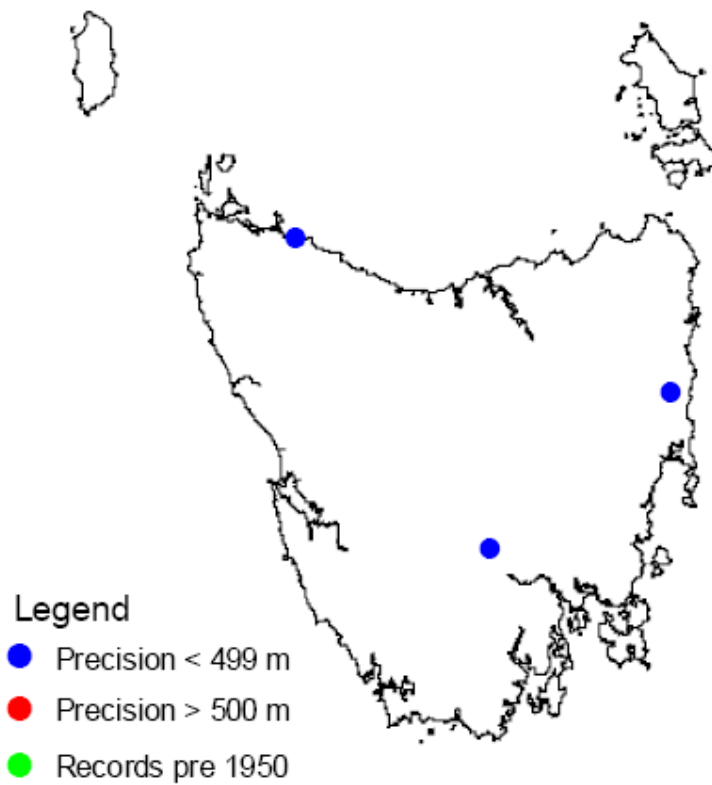
Nominations may be required for *Agrostis bettyae* and *Agrostis thompsoniae* as there are very few records from Tasmania. Given the paucity of records, *Agrostis diemenica* should be assessed for possible uplisting and listing at the Commonwealth level, though more information may be required for a meaningful assessment.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Jacobs, SWL 2001, Four New Species of *Agrostis* (Gramineae) from Australia, *Telopea*, Vol.9(3).
- Morris, DI 2004, A New Species of *Agrostis* (Poaceae) endemic to Tasmania, *Telopea*, Vol.10(3).

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, August 2005)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Fingal, Hamilton, Rocky Cape.

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