

Chorizandra enodis



Chorizandra enodis.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: CYPERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Chorizandra enodis*,
Nees in Lehm., *Pl. Preiss.* 2: 73 (1846)

COMMON NAME: black bristlesedge

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*)
endangered

Description

A rigid, hairless, perennial plant with a spreading rhizome (underground stem). **Stem:** The flowering stems are erect and between 30-45 cm tall and 1-1.5 mm in diameter. The stems are greyish-green, wiry and circular with fine, linear markings. **Leaves:** There are usually two leaves which are erect, the inner one is often longer than the stem. The leaves are stem-like with the ends tapering to a fine point that is almost sharp. Long open sheaths surround the bases of the leaves. Sheaths represent the outer leaves with the blades becoming progressively smaller to absent in the outermost one. They are fawn to purplish in colour. **Spikelets (seedhead):** The spikelets and leaf-like structures surrounding the spikelets (glumes) overlap like roof tiles and are all approximately 4 mm long, pale and membranous in the lower half and harder, dark purplish-brown in the upper half. The outermost glume has an especially long central awn (protruding hair-like structure). The remaining glumes have one stamen. The anthers (pollen) are salmon-pink in colour. Flowering is from spring to autumn (Flora of Victoria). **(Seed) nut:** The seed is almost spherical and approximately 2.5 mm long, rough and minutely hairy between the longitudinal ribs (description from Curtis & Morris 1994).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Western Australia, Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. In Tasmania, *Chorizandra enodis* is found in damp, sandy heath around the Low Head region.



Chorizandra enodis. G. Davis.

Key Sites and Populations

The key sites for this species are concentrated around the Low Head region. Five of these sites are from roadside drains under George Town Council jurisdiction, however the other sites occupy poorly drained areas on private land. Survey in the region has identified approximately 2 500 plants from 10 locations (North 2001).

Known Reserves

Chorizandra enodis is not currently known from any reserve.

Ecology and Management

It appears that this species can inhabit areas associated with land clearance and agricultural development activities, such as drainage, pasture development, intensive grazing etc. It is suggested that this species would naturally occur in swamp forest where it would colonise clearings and perhaps the fringing areas around wetlands (North 2001).

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

Conservation Status Assessment

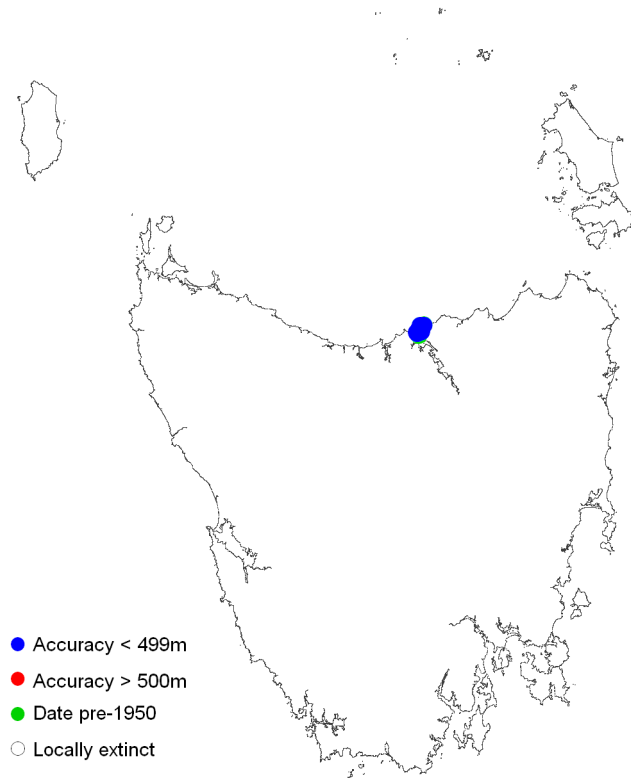
Chorizandra enodis was previously listed as extinct, however it was rediscovered in 1997.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania, Part 4B*, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- North, AK 1991, *Chorizandra enodis* Nees in Lehm. (Black Bristle Rush). Assessment of its status and guidelines for its conservation. A report to the Threatened Species Unit, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(Extracted from the Natural Values Atlas, March 2008)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Bell Bay, Low Head.

Date last modified: 11/03/2008

View

<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

Contact details

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Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.