

# *Tricostularia pauciflora*



*Tricostularia pauciflora*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

**FAMILY:** CYPERACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Tricostularia pauciflora*,  
(F.Muell.) Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 7: 383 (1878)

**COMMON NAME:** Needle bog sedge

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

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

## Description

A tufted plant with short rhizomes (underground stems). **Stems:** The stems are up to 30 cm long and approximately 0.8 mm in diameter. **Leaves:** The leaf blade is channelled and very reduced in most cases, however it can occasionally be up to 7 cm long. The leaves mainly arise from the base, with 1 or 2 along the stem itself. The leaf sheaths are closed and reddish in colour. **Spikelets (seedhead):** The spikelets are usually 4-5 mm long, however they swell when approaching maturity. Each spikelet is found with a bract (leaf-like structure). The flowers are solitary or in groups of 2 and are situated at the ends of the stems. There are 5-6 glumes (leaf-like structures surrounding the spikelet) that are oval in shape and spread at maturity. **Seed (nut):** The seed is approximately 2.5 mm long, dark brown and covered with woolly hairs. There are 3 longitudinal ribs on the surface that are paler in colour (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Flowering is in spring and summer (Flora of Victoria). Herbarium specimens have been collected between September and December.

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania, *Tricostularia pauciflora* is found in sandy heaths, dunes and heath on clay soils around coastal areas (Curtis & Morris 1994).

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Waterhouse Reserve near One Tree Hill, Deep Bay, Petticoat Ridge and Munro Bay on Cape Barren Island, Gates Bluff heaths on the Freycinet Peninsula and the foot of Mt Parsons near Sleepy Bay.

### Known Reserves

Reserved in the Coles Bay Conservation Area, Freycinet National Park and the Waterhouse Conservation Area.

### Ecology and Management

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

### Conservation Status Assessment

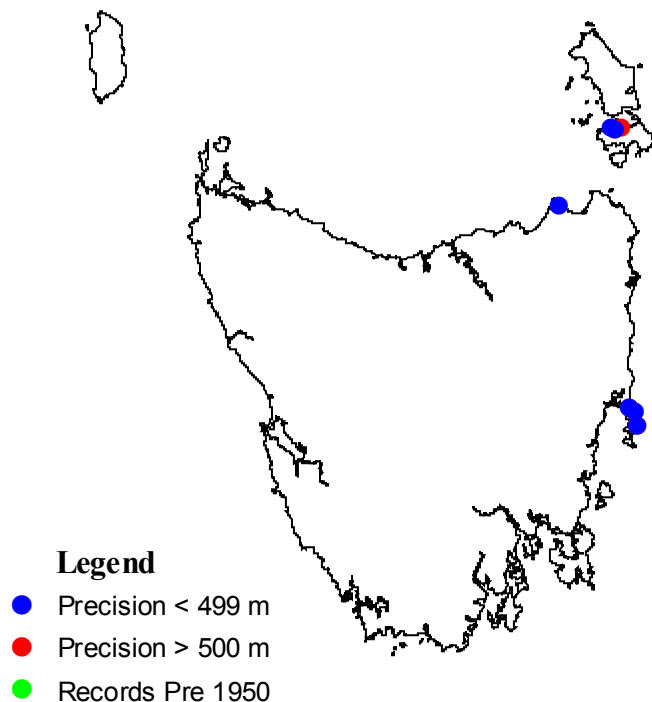
There is not enough information available to enable meaningful reassessment of *Tricostularia pauciflora*.

### Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.

### Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



### 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Anderson, Coles Bay, Graham, Waterhouse.

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