

Uncinia elegans



Uncinia elegans. M. Wapstra.

FAMILY: CYPERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Uncinia elegans*, (Kük.)
Hamlin, *Rec. Domin. Mus.* 19: 11 (1959)

COMMON NAME: handsome hooksedge

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A tufted, perennial plant that forms small mats from rhizomes (underground stems).

Stems: The stems are slender and rigid and can be erect or curved. They are longer or somewhat shorter than the leaves. **Leaves:** There are between 5-9 leaves that arise from the base of the stems. The blades are between 5-25 cm long and 1.5-2.75 mm wide, they are also thin and flat with a rounded central vein that is very obvious on the lower surface of the leaves. The leaf margins have widely spaced groups of minute, stiff hairs. The sheaths at the base of the leaves are closed and clear to brown in colour. **Spikelets (seedhead):** The flower spike is between 2-7 cm long and bractless (leaf-like structures absent). The male spikelets occupy the upper quarter of the spike with the female ones close together and sitting below. The female spikelets have glumes (leaf-like structures surrounding the spikelet) that are green or greenish-fawn in colour and broad, the glumes also often have brown markings. **Seed (nut):** The nut is pale brown and has narrow ribbing in places (description from Curtis & Morris 1994).

Ecology and Management

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 *Uncinia elegans*.

Further Information

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

Preceding text last modified 19/6/2003.

Following updated 31/1/2017.

Survey Time and Habitat Guide (*black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records*)

<i>Uncinia elegans</i>	Spring				Summer				Autumn				Winter											
handsome hooksedge	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A

- This tufted perennial sedge can be detected at any time but mature fruit, which is almost always present, is required to confirm identification.
- *Uncinia elegans* occurs in a wide range of forest types including wet sclerophyll forest, dry sclerophyll forest and open grassy woodlands. It is most often associated with damp grassy habitats and can occur on disturbed sites.

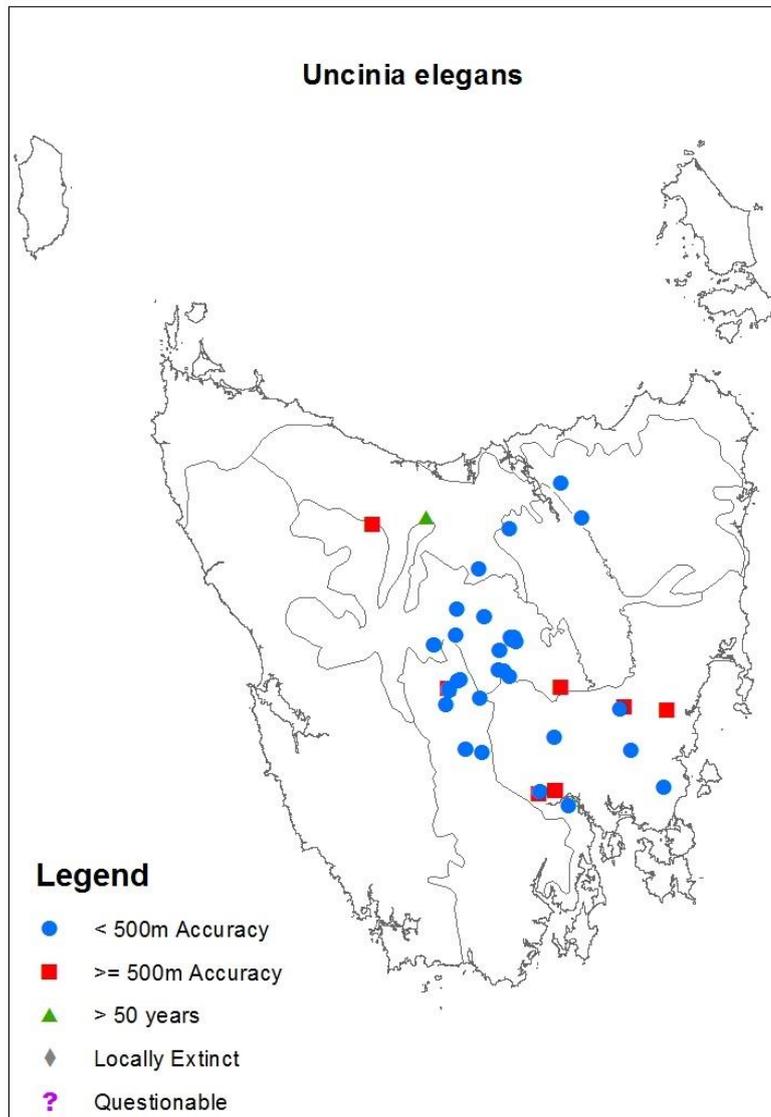
Distribution

This species also occurs in New Zealand.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Mount Faulkner Conservation Area, Central Plateau Conservation Area, Sandspit River Conservation Area and Wentworth Creek Conservation Area. It also occurs on two private properties in areas covered by a conservation covenant under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

Tasmanian Distribution
(Natural Values Atlas Jan 2017)



Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2017). *Notesheet for Uncinia elegans (handsome hooksedge)*. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.

View

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

Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Ph. (03) 6165 4340.

Permit

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