

Xanthorrhoea bracteata



Xanthorrhoea bracteata. S. Wood.

FAMILY: XANTHORRHOACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Xanthorrhoea bracteata*, R.Br., *Prodr.* 288 (1810)

COMMON NAME: Shiny grass tree

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Endangered

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) vulnerable

Description

A perennial grass tree, between 30-50 cm tall. There is no trunk and the plant is branched below the ground, producing several crowns, each an erect tuft. **Leaves:** The leaves are between 40-110 cm long and 1.5-3 mm wide. **Flowers:** The flower head is usually less than a third the length of the scape (bare stem below the flower head). The scape is very thin (between 0.4-0.9 cm in diameter). Flowering occurs from January to February. **Fruit:** The fruit is a capsule and the seeds are round or oval and slightly flattened. **Confusing species:** The morphology of the *Xanthorrhoea* species is confusing with some plants exhibiting intermediate or combined characters of *Xanthorrhoea australis*, *Xanthorrhoea bracteata* and *Xanthorrhoea arenaria*. As a result identification to a species level may be difficult until these taxonomic issues are resolved (description from Barker & Johnson 1998, Curtis & Morris 1994). **Taxonomic history:** Together, *Xanthorrhoea bracteata* and *Xanthorrhoea arenaria* were previously known as *Xanthorrhoea minor* (*sensu* Rodway 1903).

Distribution and Habitat

This species is endemic to Tasmania and occurs in sandy soils, often acid and waterlogged, in coastal heathland between the Asbestos Range and Waterhouse Point in the north-east (Curtis & Morris 1994).

Key Sites and Populations

Important locations include Badger Hill (State Forest), west of Bridport (Crown Land), Boobyalla River area, Waterhouse and Stony Head Artillery Range (Barker & Johnson 1998).

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Cameron Regional Reserve, Little Boobyalla River Conservation Area, Mount William National Park and the Waterhouse Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

Xanthorrhoea bracteata is highly susceptible to infection by the root rot (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*). Inappropriate fire regimes are also detrimental. This species is part of a multi-species recovery plan by Barker and Johnson (1998).

Bees are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

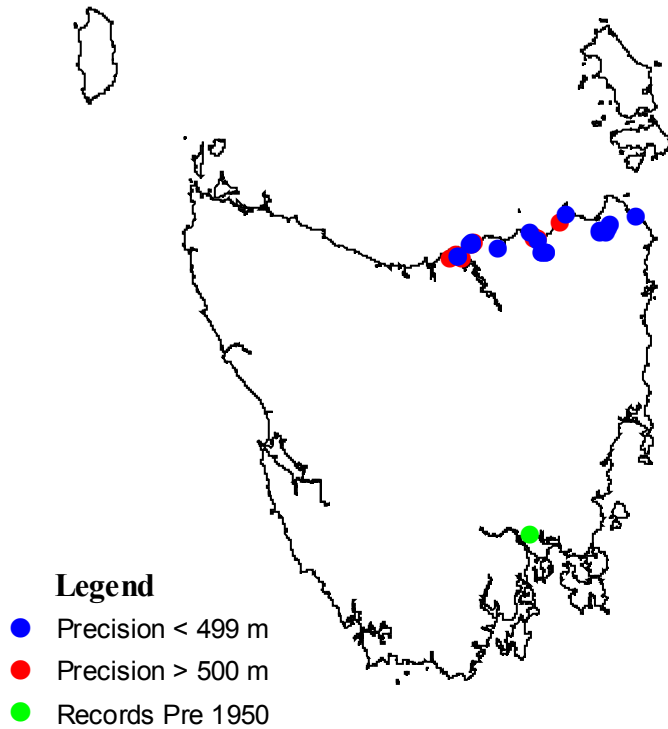
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Xanthorrhoea bracteata*.

Further Information

- Barker, PCJ & Johnson, KA 1998, *Recovery Plan – Selected Tasmanian Forest Associated Plants*, Forestry Tasmania, Hobart.
- Barker, PCJ & Johnson, KA 1998, Threatened Species Unit, *Listing Statement Dwarf Gras-tree Xanthorrhoea bracteata R. Br.*, Parks and Wildlife Service, Hobart.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Bell Bay, Bowood, Bridport, Gladstone, Green Beach, Low Head, Monarch, Musselroe, Port Sorell, Richmond, Waterhouse, Weymouth.

Date last modified: 03/09/03