

# Carex gunniana



*Carex gunniana*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

**FAMILY:** CYPERACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Carex gunniana*,  
Boott, *Proc. Linn. Soc. Lond.* 1: 258 (1845)

**COMMON NAME:** mountain sedge

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

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

## Description

A perennial sedge. **Stems:** The stems are densely clustered and erect. They measure between 15-70 cm high and are triangular in cross section and smooth. **Leaves:** The light green leaves originate from the base and can be shorter or longer than stems. They are erect to half-spreading with blades between 4-8 mm broad. The sheaths are usually speckled and dark purplish-brown in colour. **Seedhead:** The seedhead is branched. **Spikelets (units of the seedhead):** The spikelets are cylindrical with rounded ends. The male spikes are narrow and between 1.5-3 cm long. They are straw-coloured, sometimes with 1-2 smaller male spikes immediately below. The female spikes are wider, between 2-3.5 cm long, pale yellowish-green and at maturity measure 7-8 mm in diameter. This species flowers in October to March. **Fruit saks:** The fruit is stalkless, almost erect to half-spreading and between 4.5-5.5 mm long. The base of the fruit is rounded, tapering gradually to a narrow beak. It is also membranous, more-or-less shining, pale greenish brown (speckled, dark purplish-brown) and darker at maturity. **Seed (nut):** The seed is small, stalked, triangular in cross section, and approximately 2.5 x 1.8 mm with abruptly rounded tips (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected from November to April.

## Ecology and Management

*Carex gunniana* persists after fire, road maintenance, and general disturbance (TPLUC 1996). Threats to this species include clearing for pasture development and weed infestation.

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



*Carex gunniana*  
fruit sack. D. Morris.

### Conservation Status Assessment

There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Carex gunniana*.

### Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Jessop, JP & Toelken, HR 1986, *Flora of South Australia, Part IV (Alismataceae to Orchidaceae)*, South Australian Printing Division, Adelaide.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.

*Preceding text last modified 3/9/2003.*

*Following updated 20/9/2016.*

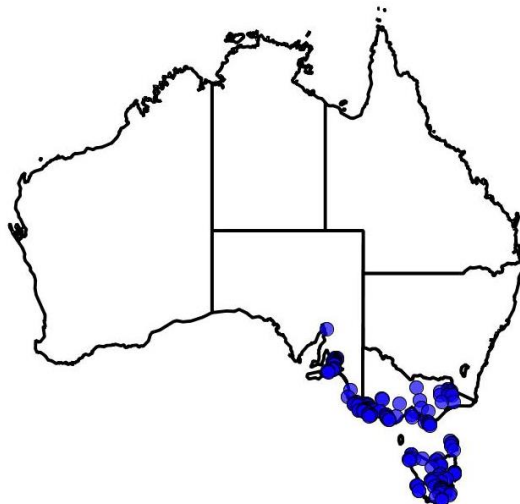
### Survey Time and Habitat Guide (black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records)

<i>Carex gunniana</i>	Spring					Summer					Autumn				Winter									
	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A
mountain sedge	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 perennial sedge flowers from October to March. Mature inflorescences are required for identification. Herbarium specimens have been collected from November to early April.
- In Tasmania, *Carex gunniana* grows in wet eucalypt forest and sandy heathlands, margins of streams, littoral sands, shingle with seepage, damp grasslands within dry forest and rough pasture.

### Distribution

(Atlas of Living Australia 15/9/2016)

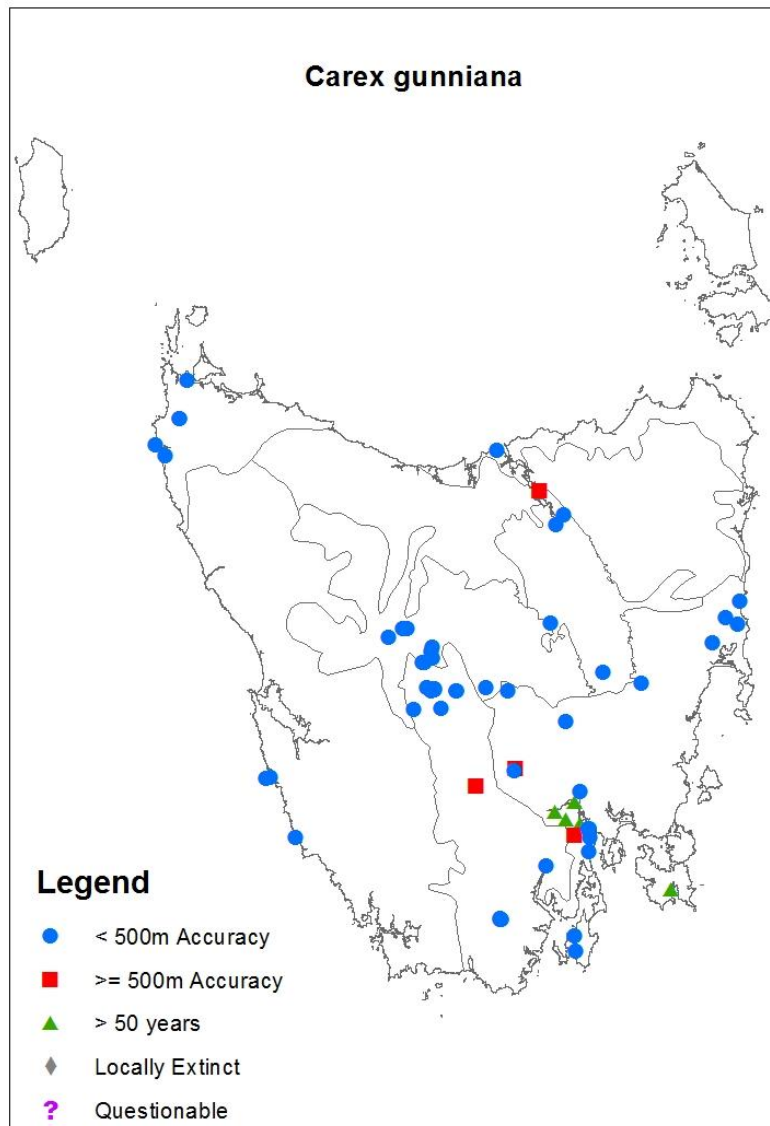


### Known Reserves

Reserved in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area, Central Plateau Conservation Area, Douglas-Apsley National Park, Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, Walls of Jerusalem National Park Kings Run Private Nature Reserve, Port Arthur Historic Site, South Bruny National Park, Southwest National Park, Southwest Conservation Area,

### Tasmanian Distribution

(Natural Values Atlas May 2015)



**Cite as:**

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Carex gunniana (mountain sedge)*. 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. Phone (03) 6165 4340.

**Permit**

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