

Juncus amabilis



Juncus amabilis.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: JUNCACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Juncus amabilis*,
Edgar, *New Zealand J. Bot.* 2: 186, figs.7, 21
(1964)

COMMON NAME: gentle rush

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A rhizomatous (underground stem that forms roots) perennial growing in dense clumps. **Flowering Stems:** The stems are erect and between 60-120 cm long and between 1.5-2.7 mm wide. They are hard, grey or bluish-green, rigid and dull. The pith inside the stem is irregular and often very scanty, it is represented only by thin scale-like disks. The sheaths surrounding the base of the stems have straw-coloured upper surfaces and very dark reddish-purple to black lower surfaces. The tips of the inner bracts are rounded with a short point. **Seedheads:** The flower heads have several slender branches that have clusters of flowers at their tips. The flowers can be loosely separated at times, but in Tasmanian plants the branches are usually short with flowers that are packed into spherical heads. Flowering is predominantly from November to December (Flora of Victoria). **Capsules:** The capsules are pale brown with reddish-brown or darker tips. The valves taper into an almost blunt point (description from Curtis & Morris 1994).

Ecology and Management

This species can reproduce vegetatively from rhizomes. Adverse impacts include forest and general land clearance as well as grazing. The species persists after fire (TPLUC 1996).

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



Juncus amabilis. R. Hale

Conservation Status Assessment

There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Juncus amabilis*.

Further Information

- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1991, *Tasmanian Native Bush: A Management Handbook*, Tasmanian Environment Centre, Hobart.
- 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 28/8/2003.

Following updated 5/1/2017.

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)*

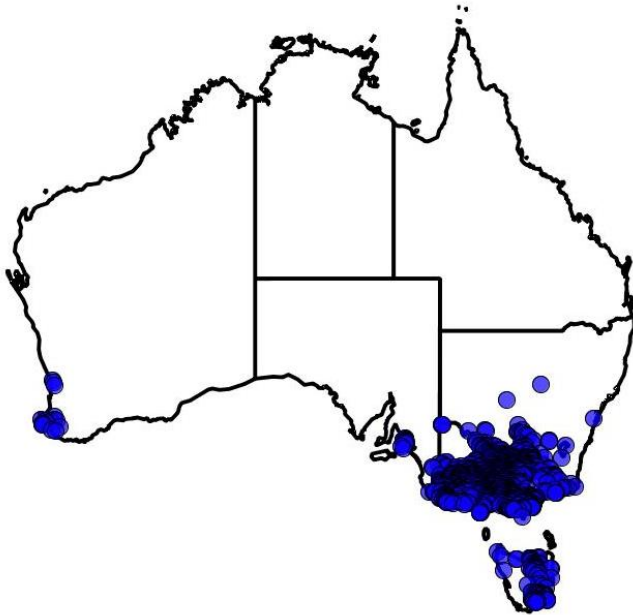
<i>Juncus amabilis</i>	Spring				Summer				Autumn				Winter											
gentle rush	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A

- Inflorescences are required to identify this rhizomatous perennial that grows in dense clumps. Flowering is predominantly from November to December (Flora of Victoria). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from January to March and observations of the species recorded throughout the year though fertile inflorescences are often absent in winter and early spring. The species can hybridise with several taxa, making identification problematic.
- In Tasmania, *Juncus amabilis* occurs poorly-drained sites such as damp grasslands and grassy woodlands, wet pastures, roadside ditches and edges of still and slow-flowing waterbodies.

Distribution

(Atlas of Living Australia 5/1/2017)

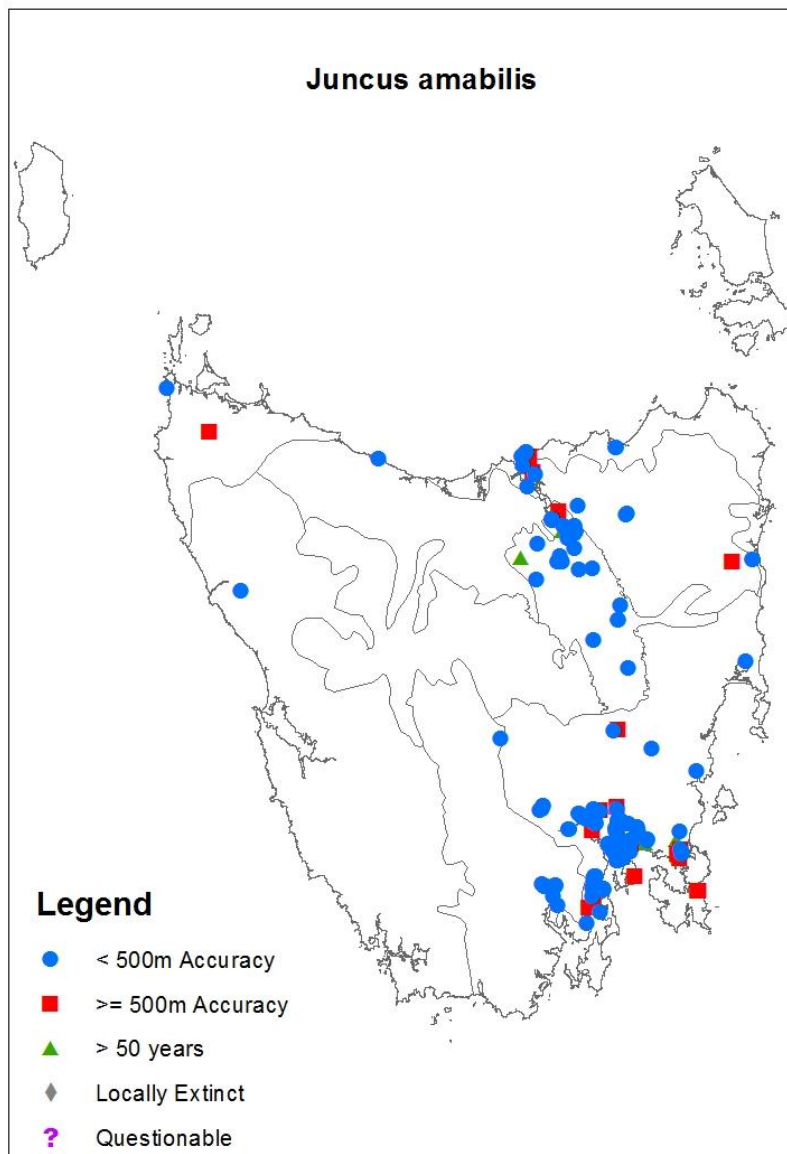
The species has also been introduced to New Zealand.



Known Reserves

Reserved in the Coningham Nature Recreation Area, Lanes Tier Conservation Area, Egg Islands Conservation Area, Tamar Conservation Area, Pieman River State Reserve, and the Pipers River Private Sanctuary. It also occurs on three private properties in areas covered by a conservation covenant under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

Tasmanian Distribution
(Natural Values Atlas May 2015)



Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2017). *Notesheet for Juncus amabilis (gentle rush)*. 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.