

# Threatened species of the Northern Territory

## *Baumea arthropphylla*

### Conservation status

#### Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

#### Northern Territory: Endangered

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976



Credit: M. Armstrong

### Description

This species is a perennial sedge to 2 m high. The inflorescence is narrow, interrupted and 10-30 cm long. The leaves are round in cross section, septate and pith filled.

Flowering and Fruiting: October to November.

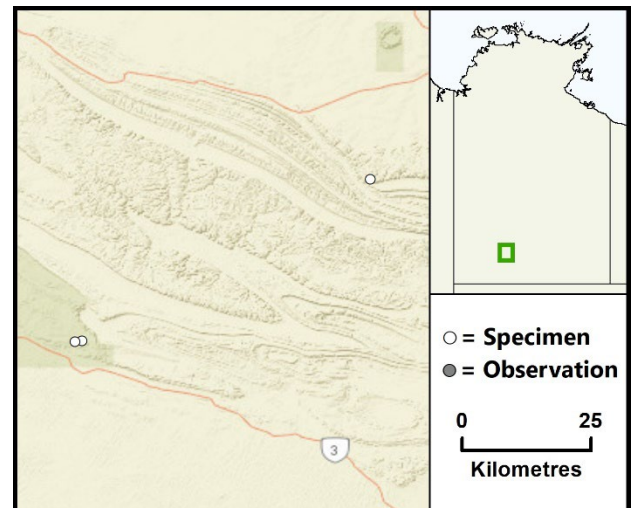
### Distribution

This sedge is widely distributed in sub-tropical and temperate areas of the continent. In the Northern Territory (NT), it is exceptionally rare; being known only from a single population, consisting of only a few plants, in Watarrka National Park<sup>1</sup>. The closest occurrence of this species outside the NT is at Dalhousie Springs in South Australia.

NT conservation reserves where reported:  
Watarrka National Park.

### Ecology and life-history

This species occurs in a seepage area amongst rocks in a sandstone gorge. It is unknown if this species is a relict of a wetter climatic period or a more recent immigrant to the arid centre.



Caption: Known locations of *Baumea arthropphylla* in the NT ([nrmmaps.nt.gov.au](http://nrmmaps.nt.gov.au))

### Threatening processes

With such a small population size and restricted distribution in the NT, this species is vulnerable to stochastic events. The drying out of the drainage line in which it occurs, grassy weed invasion and wildfire are potential threats.

## Conservation objectives and management

Protection from wildfire is required. A monitoring program should be established to track changes in population and habitat health through time.

## References

<sup>1</sup> White, M., Albrecht, D., Duguid, A., Latz, P., and Hamilton, M. 2000. *Plant species and sites of botanical significance in the southern bioregions of the Northern Territory. Volume 1: significant vascular plants*. A report to the Australian Heritage Commission. (Arid Lands Environment Centre, Alice Springs).