

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

Baumea arthrophylla

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Endangered



Photo: Martin Armstrong

Description

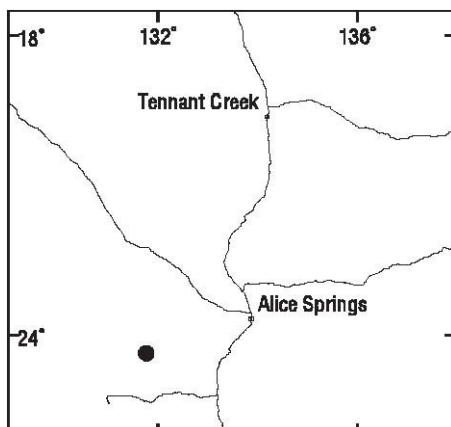
This species is a perennial sedge to 2 m high. The inflorescence is narrow, interrupted and 10-30 cm long. The leaves are round in cross section, septate and pith filled.

Flowering and Fruiting: Oct - Nov.

Distribution

This sedge is widely distributed in sub-tropical and temperate areas of the continent. In the NT, it is exceptionally rare; known only from a single population, consisting of only a few plants, in Watarrka National Park (White *et al.* 2000). The closest occurrence outside the NT of this species is at Dalhousie Springs in South Australia.

Conservation reserves where reported:
Watarrka National Park.



Known location of *Baumea arthrophylla*.

Ecology

This species occurs in a seepage area amongst rocks in a sandstone gorge. It is unclear whether this species is a relict of wetter climatic periods or a more recent immigrant.

Conservation assessment

This species qualifies as **Endangered** in the NT (under criterion D), based on:

- restricted distribution, with area of occupancy estimated to be <20 km²; and
- a small population size estimated to be <250 mature individuals.

Threatening processes

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

Conservation objectives and management

Protection from intense fires is required. A monitoring program should be established.

Compiled by

Raelee Kerrigan
David Albrecht
[April 2006]

References

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.)