

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

Bolboschoenus caldwellii

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Endangered



Photo: Martin Armstrong

Description

This species is a rhizomatous perennial sedge. Its stems are acutely three-angled; its inflorescence is compound, umbel-like with 1-3 erect or spreading rays. The spikelets are golden or red-brown.

Flowering: Jan, May, Jun, Sep.

Fruiting: Jan, Mar, Apr, Jun, Sep, Oct.

Distribution

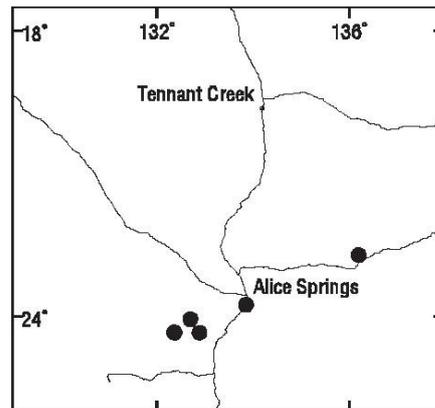
This sedge occurs in all Australian states and overseas. In the NT, it is very rare, only recorded from one site within Finke Gorge National Park, two sites south of Finke Gorge, a bore overflow on Jervois Station and a sewerage outflow at Ilparpa Swamp (near Alice Springs) (White *et al.* 2000). The Finke Gorge National Park population is now presumed extinct.

Conservation reserves where reported:

Finke Gorge National Park (although it may be locally extinct there).

Ecology

It occurs in damp soils adjacent to permanent or semi-permanent water.



Known locations of *Bolboschoenus caldwellii*.

Conservation assessment

The NT population of this species qualifies as Critically Endangered based on the population size estimated to be <50 mature individuals. However, numbers of individuals of clonal species are difficult to estimate.

Considering that suitable habitat for this species occurs in the Dulcie Ranges and more populations may exist there, it is listed as **Endangered** (under criterion D).

The populations on Jervois Station and at Ilparpa Swamp are presumably the result of propagules transported by birds. Both are considered unnatural and ephemeral populations expected to disappear as the artificial conditions change in the near future.

Threatening processes

Competition from Couch Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) is an established threat for this species. The impact of stock through habitat degradation has yet to be determined.

Conservation objectives and management

Suitable habitat for this species occurs in the Dulcie Ranges and future fieldwork in this area should include searches for this species.

Known populations should be monitored; and their response to putative threats and management responses assessed.

Complied by

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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.)*