

Cyperaceae

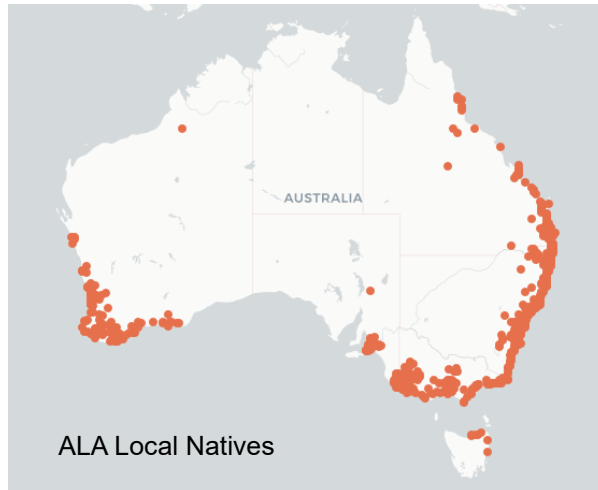
Baumea articulata

now *Machaerina articulata*

jointed twigrush



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Field Botanist

ETYMOLOGY

(BO-me-a) After Antoine Baume 1728-1804 professor of Chemistry; The species articulated = jointed in leaf stalk;

LIFEFORM

90-200cm 90cm Sedge

STATUS

All states except NT; from NE Qld, NSW, Vic, SA, WA, Rare in Tasmania;

OCCURS

Nine Mile Beach Q, Tooloom N P, NSW, Vic, Manjimup, Mundaring, Nannup, Nedlands, Northampton, Plantagenet WA, Tas (NG, NZ, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia

HABITAT

Coastal swamps, borders of lakes, ponds

LEAVES

Basal, 12 mm wide, hollow jointed, cylindrical as long or longer than the stem leaf sheath straw-coloured;

FLOWERS

Spikelets, 50-70 cm, numerous 3-5 flowered brown large loose drooping, panicles of red to brown 15-40 cm spikelets; **Flowering times** Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April

FRUIT

Nuts, ovoid, light brown to whitish, 3 sided with rough surface & corky ridges

Fruiting times Dec, Jan, Feb

BARK

Rhizome stout; long creeping or spreading; Roots not developing tubers

TRUNK or STEM

Robust perennial, sedge; Stems cylindrical, glabrous rigid; internal horizontal divisions (septa) visible externally on dry stems not as obvious on fresh stems

ETHNOBOTANY

Found in very deep, standing freshwater, Plant in swampy mud, poorly to imperfectly drained; Good soaker of nutrients used for treating waste and urban runoff; Decorative around ponds, planting rate 1-6per sq m, suitable for low level constructed wetland treatment systems;

TOLERANCE:

Tolerates seasonally waterlogged; slightly to moderately saline, frosts tolerant 0-5°C

WILDLIFE:

Fruits (nuts) are food source for waterbirds; Provides valuable habitat for waterbirds as nesting material and hiding sites; Plants form large dense clumps used as shelter;

BIRD

Waterbirds, Crakes (fr)

BUTTERFLY

Hesperilla furva grey sedge skipper

INDIGENOUS USES

Seeds were ground into flour; This flour was added to bungwall fern or bunya nut flour which were main sources of flour; Special grinding stones were used to grind the seeds;

ID FEATURE

Robust dark green, cylindrical hollow, stems with perfectly transversely, horizontal partitions (Bamboo-like) + Flowering drooping heads;



Evangelos Laios iNat