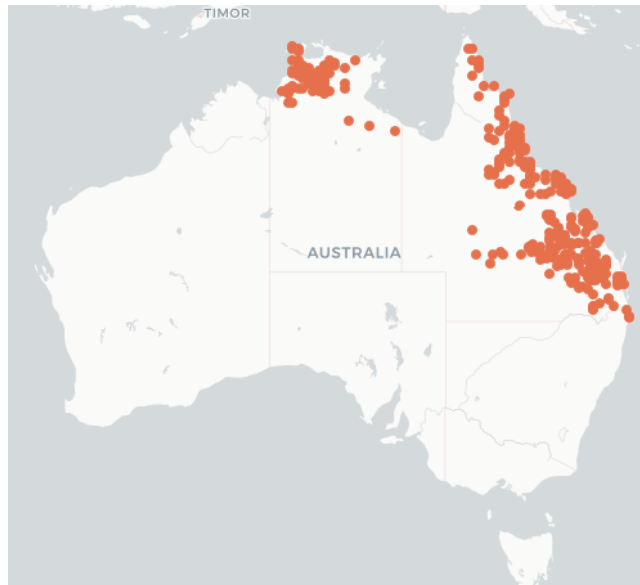
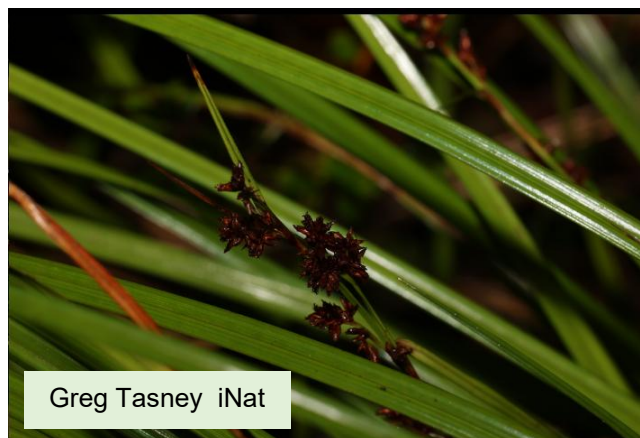


Cyperaceae
Scleria sphacelata
 rainforest sedge



Ann Moran
Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(SKLEER-ee-a) Greek for hardness, because of hard fruits (seeds bone hard); The species sphacelatum (sfah-suh-LAH-tum) from Greek necrosis withered; dead-looking; mortification in referring to the leaf that is withered at flowering time; speckled with brown or black. The apices of the anthoecia are purple or black;

LIFEFORM

Sedge 60cm - 1 m

STATUS

Widespread common per site (population well conserved)

OCCURS

Sunshine Coast, Tara Qld, NT

QLD DISTRICTS

Burke, Burnett, Cook, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Marano, Mitchell, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Port Curtis, Warrego, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Wet sclerophyll, Under-story rainforest to inland areas

LEAVES

Basal 2-6 mm wide, leaves with scabrid veins

FLOWERS

Dioecious (male and females on separate plants) Spikelets 35 mm; 1-flowered; aggregated or clustered, mostly more than 3; few; wholly male, or wholly female.

Flowering Times Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov

FRUIT

Nuts, 2.5-3 x 2-2.5 mm ovoid; trigonous in cross section; smooth, white bone hard seeds;

Fruiting Times Dec, Jan

STEM

Tufted sedge; not tussock forming; erect; 3-angled; striate. Culms 30-100 cm x 1-3 mm scabrous. solid; not septate

BUTTERFLY

Hesperilla furva Grey Sedge-skipper, *Hesperilla crypsigramma* Small Dingy-skipper

ID FEATURE

Tufted long linear 2-6mm leaves with scabrid veins. Flowers male or female bracts on spikes + fruit: globular, white nuts;