



**Threatened Plants**  
TASMANIA

**Threatened Plants Tasmania Inc invite members  
to register for a workshop**

## **Sedges of Tasmania - hands-on identification**

**30th November 2025**

The Cyperaceae, or sedge family, is a large and diverse group of flowering plants in a variety of specialised forms/genera. Many species favour wet conditions, and they are a prominent part of the Tasmanian flora. Sedge plants in Tasmania vary from the highly distinctive buttongrass, *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus*, to cryptic annuals like some of the clubsedges, *Isolepis* spp. In the larger genera, it is often necessary to dissect part of the inflorescence and examine parts of individual flowers and fruits under a microscope to determine species identity.

**Workshop aim:** To become more familiar with different plant forms in the Cyperaceae family, and methods to dissect the flowers and isolate important features needed for identification to species.

**Workshop overview:** The workshop will commence with an introduction to the sedge family and some of the smaller genera, followed by sessions on some of the larger genera including *Carex*, *Gahnia*, *Isolepis*, *Lepidosperma* and *Schoenus*.

For each of the larger Cyperaceae genera, there will be a short discussion of the typical structure of a plant and its inflorescence. This will be a prelude to a practical session with a few specimens that can be examined in detail. All participants will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with dissecting plant material and isolating key parts of the flower and fruit that are used for identification.

We will encourage conversations amongst participants to share prior experience with identifying sedges. The different perspectives may help to identify and clarify methods and techniques for managing specimens under the lens or microscope.

### **Agenda**

- What is a sedge (compared to a grass, rush or rope-rush)?
- Diagrams and explanations of the parts of different sedge plants and flowers.
- An introduction to larger groups of Tasmanian sedges including some common weedy species.
- Practical skills for interpreting and dissecting the important features of a sedge plant.

### **Session Facilitators:**

**Mark Wapstra** is the owner, manager and senior scientist at ECO *tas*, or Environmental Consulting

Options Tasmania. Mark has 30 years of experience as a professional botanist/ecologist/educator in Tasmania, including as an author of numerous publications including *Tasmanian Plant Names Unravalled*, soon to be in a second edition.

**Phil Collier** was foundation president of TPT and has 40 years of experience as an amateur botanist in Tasmania. In July 2022, Phil achieved a Level 7 Field Identification Skills Certificate from the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI).

**Who should attend:** We will assume that all participants will have an interest in Tasmanian sedges, and most likely field experience in walking by/over them. This workshop will be open to members at first, then opened to the rest of the mailing list if places still remain.

**Session time and place:** 9:30am to 4:30pm at the Campbell Town Recreation Complex Function Room

**Attendee Numbers:** Will be limited to 20.

**Registration closes:** 23<sup>rd</sup> November

TPT Members are invited to register for this workshop by using the [TPT web site](#).

**TPT Coordinator:** Sally Anthony

Email: [salllly@live.com.au](mailto:salllly@live.com.au)

Phone: 0455227738

### Health Precautions:

**Please do not attend this event if you have flu-like symptoms** including fever, coughing, sore throat, fatigue and shortness of breath.

**If you have any disability or medical conditions** that would impact participation of yourself or others on in this session, you must contact the TPT Coordinator prior to the event to discuss your situation.

### What to bring:

- If you have them, a hand lens, dissecting microscope, dissecting needle, forceps and scalpel
- Specimens of sedges that are on your land and/or you have permission to collect
- Lunch, otherwise you can purchase lunch in Campbell Town
- any personal medications
- personal hand sanitiser for use during the day
- note pad and pencil