A new species of *Agrostis* (Poaceae) endemic to Tasmania

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Abstract

Morris D.I. (Tasmanian Herbarium, Hobart, Tasmania 7000 Australia) 2004. A new species of Agrostis *(Poaceae) endemic to Tasmania*. Telopea *10(3): 765–767.* **Agrostis diemenica** is newly described and illustrated. It is endemic to Tasmania, and has previously been known as *Agrostis* aff. *australiensis.*

Introduction

When the section on *Agrostis* was being prepared for Part 4B of *The Student's Flora of Tasmania* (Curtis and Morris 1994) a number of specimens were found which did not fit the descriptions of any named species. These, all regarded as native, were described under various 'aff.' names. Of these, aff. *hiemalis*, aff. *parviflora* and aff. *scabra* have now been included in the four species described by Jacobs (2001). A fourth, dsignated aff. *australiensis*, is here described as a new species.

Agrostis diemenica *D.I. Morris* **sp. nov.**

A. australiens Mez. similis sed lamina folii plana, usque ad 2 mm latam, lemmate 2–2.5 mm longo, antheris 0.5–1.6 mm longis differt.

Holotype: AUSTRALIA: Tasmania: Lake 1/2 km NW of Second Bar Lake (41°47'S 146°31'E), *A. Moscal 6946*, 12 Mar 1984 (HO 100671). (Fig. 1)

Loosely tufted glabrous perennial up to 35 cm high. Leaf sheaths ribbed, becoming loose; ligules 1–3 mm long, membranous, truncate, entire or shortly erose; blades flat, often becoming involute distally, up to 12 cm long and 2 mm wide, subsmooth to scaberulous on both surfaces. Culms smooth, sometimes scaberulous below the panicle. Panicle up to 10 cm long, at first partially enclosed in the uppermost leaf-sheath, later exserted, branches whorled or binate at the lower nodes, upper nodes binate, ± stiffly spreading, bare in the proximal half, few-flowered, the spikelets loosely arranged at the tips of the secondary branches. Spikelets purplish, occasionally green. Glumes subequal to unequal, acute, keels scabrous; lower glume 2–3 mm long, upper glume 1.75–2.75 mm long. Lemma shorter than to shortly exceeding the glumes, 2–2.5 mm long, the nerves obscure or purplish and obvious. Palea minute. Callus minutely bearded. Anthers 0.5–1.6 mm long Caryopsis c. 1.25 mm long.

This is the *A.* sp. aff. *australiensis* Mez. described in *The Students Flora of Tasmania* (Curtis & Morris 1994), and recorded in *A Census of the Vascular Plants of Tasmania* (Buchanan 1999).

Habitat: edges of lakes, marsh or streams, seepage areas and damp areas in open situations.

Distribution: Central Highlands and Mount Field National Park at altitudes between 900 and 1350 metres. (Fig. 2)

Etymology: from Van Diemens Land, an early name for Tasmania.

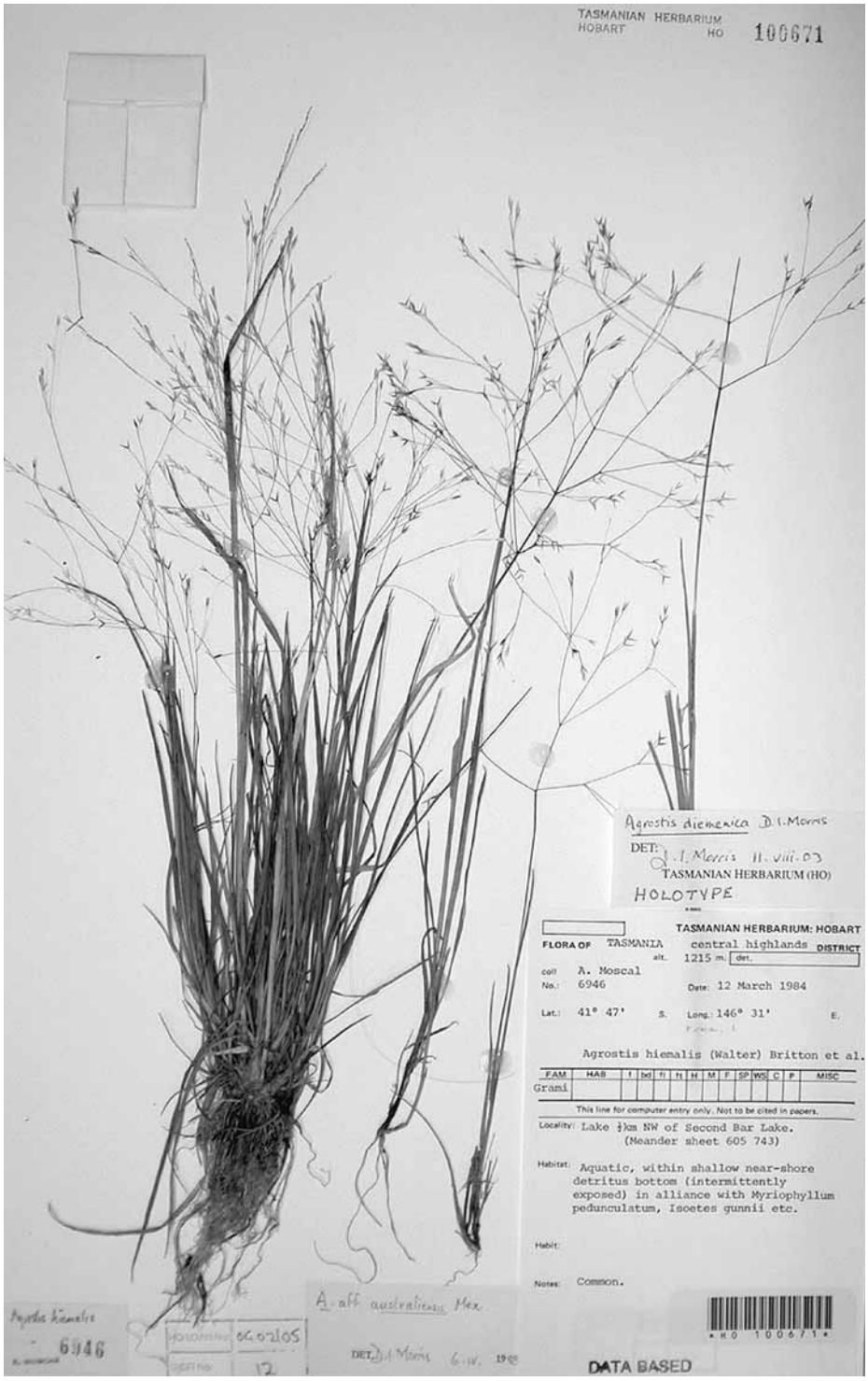

Fig. 1. Photograph of holotype of *Agrostis diemenica*.

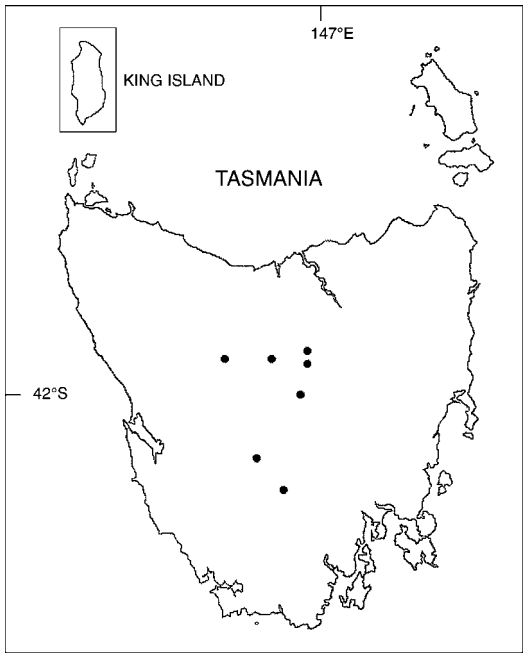

Fig. 2. Map of distribution of *Agrostis diemenica* in Tasmania.

Selection of specimens examined: Tarn, Wombat Moor, National Park, *O. Rodway 101,* 26 Mar 1922 (CANB 1097-1); Mother Lords Plains, *A. Moscal 585a*, 2 Feb 1981 (HO 58896); St Patricks Plains, *A. Moscal 6540*, 28 Feb 1984 (HO 100440); Wild Dog Tier, *A. Moscal 6848*, 9 Mar 1984 (HO 99281); close to the summit of Wylds Craig, *P. Collier 4613*, 3 Mar 1990 (HO 142895).

Conservation status: apart from the Mother Lords Plains and St Patricks Plains specimens, which are in highland grazing areas, all specimens are in National Parks or Conservation Areas.

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References

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