

BOLBOSCHOENUS

Description: Perennials with long-creeping rhizomes with subglobose woody tubers. **Culms** triquetrous to trigonous, usually several-noded, leafy, solitary from tuber. **Leaves** numerous, well-developed, leathery, with margins and midribs scabrous towards the apex; ligule absent; lower sheaths often septate-nodulose. **Inflorescence** umbel-like, with a basal cluster of sessile spikelets plus several smooth branches, or sometimes head-like; lower involucral bracts leafy, several longer than inflorescence. **Spikelets** ovoid to cylindrical, with numerous bisexual flowers. **Glumes** spirally arranged, pubescent, with lacinate apex and long excurved mucro. **Hypogynous bristles** 6, retrorsely scabrous, sometimes deciduous. **Stamens** 3. Style 2- or 3-fid, not dilated at base, deciduous. **Nut** trigonous or biconvex, obovoid.

Distribution and occurrence: World: c. 16 species, cosmopolitan. Australia: 4 or 5 species (?native), all States.

Key to the genus <i>Bolboschoenus</i>		
1	Nut equally trigonous, with the dorsal angle acute, pale yellow or grey and dull to blackish and shining; style 3-fid	<i>Bolboschoenus fluviatilis</i> ACT, ST
1*	Nut lenticular or unequally trigonous with the dorsal angle obtuse, surface variously coloured, always shining; style 2- or 3-fid	2
2	Nut lenticular; nut straw-coloured to dark golden brown, the surface minutely but obviously reticulate; style 2-fid	<i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> ACT, ST
2*	Nut plano-convex or trigonous, darker in colour, the surface not obviously reticulate; style 2- or 3-fid	3
3	Nut dark red-brown to black	<i>Bolboschoenus medianus</i> ACT, ST
3*	Nut olive-brown to very dark yellow-brown	<i>Bolboschoenus robustus</i>

Bolboschoenus caldwellii

Synonyms: *Scirpus caldwellii* V.J.Cook

Description: Rhizomatous perennial. **Culms** 30-90 (rarely to 120) cm high, 1-3.5 mm diam.

Leaves 2-7 mm wide. **Inflorescence** a compact head of 3-6 spikelets, or with 1-3 spikelet clusters on branches 1-4 cm long; involucral bracts 4-22 cm long, 1.5-2.5 mm wide. **Spikelets** 1-2 cm long.

Glumes c. 7 mm long (plus mucro c. 2 mm long), yellow-brown. **Hypogynous bristles** about half as long as nut, usually deciduous. **Style** 2-fid. **Nut** lenticular with concave faces, broad-obovoid, 3.5-4 mm long, 2.5-3 mm diam., straw-coloured to dark golden brown, shining, minutely but obviously reticulate.

Flowering: spring-summer.

Distribution and occurrence: Occasional, in swamps or inland along artesian bore drains; west to 'Thurloo Downs'. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, CT, ST, CWS, SWS, NWP, SWP, NFWP, SFWP. Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. W.A. S.A. N.T.

Bolboschoenus fluviatilis, Marsh Club-rush

Synonyms: *Scirpus fluviatilis* (Torr.) A.Gray

Description: Rhizomatous perennial. **Culms** 100-200 cm high, 5-10 mm diam. **Leaves** 7-11 mm wide. **Inflorescence** with 6-9 branches 2-10 cm long, bearing clusters of 1-6 spikelets; involucre bracts 15-25 cm long, 3-6 mm wide. **Spikelets** 1-2.5 cm long. **Glumes** 6-7 mm long (plus mucro 1.5-3 mm long), yellow-brown. Hypogynous **bristles** about as long as nut, usually persistent. **Style** 3-fid. **Nut** equally trigonous, with dorsal angle acute, 3-4 mm long, 1.5-2 mm diam., pale yellow or grey and dull to blackish and shining, minutely (but often obviously) reticulate.

Flowering: spring-summer.

Distribution and occurrence: Scattered, in open swamps; west to Macquarie Marshes. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, ST, NWS, NWP, SWP

Bolboschoenus medianus

Synonyms: *Scirpus medianus* V.J.Cook

Description: Rhizomatous perennial. **Culms** 70-150 cm high, 4-5 mm diam., scabrid on the angles above. **Leaves** 6-8 mm wide. Inflorescence with 4-6 branches 2-10 cm long, bearing clusters of 1-6 spikelets; involucre bracts 15-25 cm long. **Spikelets** 1-1.5 (-2) cm long. **Glumes** c. 7 mm long (plus mucro c. 2 mm long), yellow-brown. Hypogynous **bristles** no more than two-thirds as long as nut, often deciduous. **Style** 2- or 3-fid. **Nut** plano-convex or trigonous with concave faces, 3-4 mm long, 2-2.5 mm diam., shining, mostly not obviously reticulate.

Flowering: spring-summer.

Distribution and occurrence: Grows in swamps; scattered, south from Gungahlin and Narromine. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, ST, CWS, NWP, SWP, NFWP, SFWP. Other Australian states: Vic. Tas. S.A.