

## FICINIA

**Description:** Perennial, tufted or rhizomatous sedges. **Leaf** blades often poorly developed. **Inflorescences** terminal, **spikelets** clustered in dense heads or panicle-like. **Style** 3-fid. Small hypogynous disc (gynophore) often falling attached to the base of the achene.

**Distribution and occurrence:** One species in coastal NSW; also Vic, Tas, SA, WA; New Zealand; most species (c. 70) in Africa (Ethiopia to S. Africa, Madagascar).

*Ficinia nodosa* is listed in the Census of the Flora of the Australian Capital Territory, Version 4.0, 2017, and is the only *Ficinia* species listed for NSW (but not listed for the Southern Tablelands).

### *Ficinia nodosa*

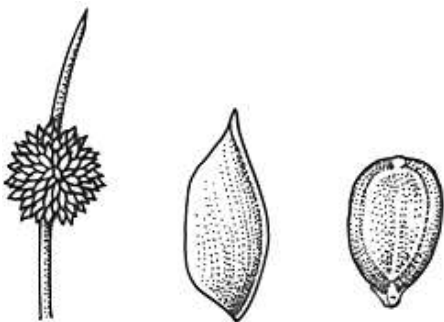
**Synonyms:** *Isolepis nodosa* (Rottb.) R.Br., *Scirpus nodosus* Rottb

**Description:** Rhizomatous perennial. Culms 15-100 cm high, 1-2 mm diam., spread along relatively stout rhizome. Leaves reduced to orange-brown sheaths. Inflorescence a dense globose or hemispherical head 7-20 mm diam., with numerous spikelets; involucre bract rigid, pungent, exceeding inflorescence. Glumes obtuse, sides irregularly several-nerved, 2-2.5 mm long, red-brown. Stamens 3; anthers c. 1 mm long. Style 3-fid. Nut plano-convex to unequally trigonous, irregularly ellipsoid, about half as long as glume, c.1 mm long, c. 0.7 mm diam., smooth, glossy, dark brown to black, with small basal hyaline or white lobed disk caducous or persistent.

**Flowering:** spring.

**Distribution and occurrence:** Coastal. Also the coasts of other southern States and Africa, New Zealand. Widespread on coastal sand, beside sea and lakes. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, LHI. Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. W.A. S.A.

Previously known as *Isolepis nodosa*, but more closely related to the *Ficinia* spp. of southern Africa, which mostly have a more conspicuous disc below the nut



*Ficinia nodosa*



*Ficinia nodosa* Fagg, M. 2014, Molonglo River, near Duntroon, Canberra, ACT, [APII dig.34230](#)



*Ficinia nodosa* Fagg, M. 2014, Molonglo River, near Duntroon, Canberra, ACT, [APII dig.34115](#)