

## SCHOENOPLECTUS

**Description:** Tufted or rhizomatous perennials. **Culms** nodeless, terete to triquetrous, glabrous. **Leaves** mostly reduced to a mucro on a sheath, occasionally longer blade present; ligule membranous. **Inflorescence** pseudolateral, branched or head-like or a single spikelet; lowest involucre bract culm-like, usually erect. **Spikelets** mostly sessile, many-flowered. **Hypogynous bristles** 2–6, filiform and retrorsely scabrous, or flattened and irregularly plumose. **Stamens** 2 or 3. **Style** 2- or 3-fid. **Nuts** lenticular or trigonous, smooth.

**Distribution and occurrence:** World: c. 30 species, cosmopolitan. Australia: 4 species, all States. Previously more broadly circumscribed to include the smaller perennials and annuals that are now placed in Schoenoplectiella.

**Taxa not yet included in identification key:** *Schoenoplectus californicus*

Key to the genus <i>Schoenoplectus</i>		
1	Inflorescence compound, with the lowest involucre bract usually shorter than or equalling the inflorescence; culms terete; leaf blades absent or reduced	2
	Inflorescence simple, head-like; the lowest involucre bract much exceeding the inflorescence; culms triquetrous; leaf blades present, to 20 cm long	<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> ACT, ST
2	Hypogynous bristles 5 or 6, filiform, retrorsely scabrous; glumes distinctly ciliate; culms grey-green	<i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> ACT, ST
	Hypogynous bristles usually 4 (3–5), flattened or folded longitudinally, retrorsely plumose; glumes glabrous or rarely sparsely minutely ciliate; culms yellow-green	<i>Schoenoplectus subulatus</i>

### *Schoenoplectus pungens*

**Synonyms:** *Scirpus pungens* Vahl *Scirpus americanus* auct. non Pers

**Description:** Perennial with long rhizome. Culms triquetrous, 20–60 cm high, to 3 mm diam. Leaves with blade to 20 cm long. Inflorescence a cluster of 1–5 spikelets; involucre bract 3–6 cm long. Spikelets ovoid, acute, 6–10 (rarely to 35) mm long, 3–5 mm diam. Glumes strongly retuse, mucronate, 4–5 mm long, ciliate or glabrous, dark red-brown. Style 3-fid. Hypogynous bristles 5 or 6, retrorsely scabrous, as long as or shorter than the nut. Nut obovoid, plano-convex, more than half as long as the glume, c. 3 mm long, c. 2 mm diam., grey-brown to very dark brown, smooth, shining or not.

**Flowering:** spring.

**Distribution and occurrence:** Grows in swampy situations, including mound springs; very scattered, most records from Goulburn to Cooma, with apparent outliers at Gungal (CWS) and Peery Lake (NFWP). NSW subdivisions: CC, CT, ST, CWS, SWS, NFWP. Other Australian states: Vic. Tas. S.A.

*Schoenoplectus validus* - listed as *S. tabernaemontani* in Census of the Flora of the Australian Capital Territory V4, 2017

**Synonyms:** *Scirpus validus* Vahl

**Description:** Tall, rhizomatous perennial. Culms terete, (60–)100–200 cm high, 3–10 mm diam. Leaves reduced; rarely blade to 10 cm long. Inflorescence umbel-like, with branches 1–8 cm long, scabrous, with 1–4 spikelets per branch; involucre bract much shorter than inflorescence, 2–5 cm long. Spikelets oblong-ovoid, acute, 5–11 mm long, 4–5 mm diam. Glumes retuse, very shortly mucronate, with ciliate margins, red-brown, 3–4 mm long. Hypogynous bristles retrorsely scabrous,

slightly longer than or equalling nut. Style 2- (or 3-)fid. Nut obovoid, plano-convex, smooth, shining, grey-brown to dark brown, 2-2.5 mm long, 1.2-1.5 mm diam.

**Flowering:** spring-summer.

**Distribution and occurrence:** Grows along creeks, lakes and open swamps (in fresh and brackish water); widespread but scattered. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST, NWS, SWS, NWP, SWP, NFWP, SFWP. Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. W.A. S.A.