

Lomandra hystrix (R.Br.) L.R.Fraser & Vickery

Family:

Asparagaceae

Fraser, L.R. & Vickery, J.W. (1937) *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 62: 286.

Common name:

Creek Mat-Rush; Mat-Rush, Creek; Matrush

Stem

Usually flowers and fruits as a shrubby plant about 1 m tall.

Leaves

Leaf blades linear, about 80-100 x 1-2 cm. Margin smooth except for 1 or 2 teeth below the apex. Bases sheathing, brown and scarious. Venation longitudinal and parallel.

Flowers

Inflorescence about as long as the leaves or shorter than the leaves. Male flowers: Flowers sessile, pleasantly perfumed, about 3 mm diam., arranged in whorls on the main branches of the inflorescence. Stamens six, attached to the tepals. Anthers yellow. Female flowers: Stamines dimorphic, the short ones alternating with the inner tepals and the longer ones opposite the inner tepals. Ovary green, stigma 3-lobed.

Fruit

Infructescence with many long spiny bracts, each bract about 1-4 cm long. Fruits globular, about 5 x 4 mm, 3-lobed in transverse section. Style persistent at the apex of each fruit. Seeds up to three per fruit, each seed about 4 mm long. Testa very thin. Endosperm hard and starchy. Embryo slightly curved, about 1.8 mm long.

Seedlings

Seeds retained on threads about 4-8 mm long. Leaves radical, venation parallel and margin smooth. First leaf blade linear, about 17-40 x 1-1.5 mm, second leaf blade about 40-60 mm long. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade linear, flat, many times longer than wide, about 150-200 x 4-5 mm. Venation longitudinal and parallel. Base of the leaf blade expanded to form a clear membrane which sheaths the stem. Seed germination time 27 to 91 days.

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic to Australia, occurs in NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as coastal central New South Wales. Altitudinal range in NEQ from 450-1500 m. Frequently grows beside watercourses in upland and mountain rain forest.

Natural History & Notes

A clumping plant that is commonly used for landscaping. It is very easily grown in a variety of situations. The flowers are strongly perfumed.

Synonyms

Lomandra longifolia subsp. *hystrix* (R.Br.) A.Lee, *Contr. New South Wales Nat. Herb.* 3: 155(1962). *Lomandra longifolia* var. *hystrix* (R.Br.) Domin, *Biblioth. Bot.* 85: 526(1915).

Xerotes hystrix R.Br., *Prodr.* : 262(1810), Type: New South Wales, Hunter, Paterson & Williams Rivers, Oct. - Nov. 1804, R. Brown 5763; holo: BM. Fide Lee & Macfarlane (1986) *Fl. Australia* 46: 121.

RFK Code

3336



Flowers. © Barry Jago



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, hypogeal germination. © CSIRO



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