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

**Family:**
Asparagaceae


**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: Staminodes dimorphic, the short ones alternating with the inner tepals and the longer ones opposite the inner tepals. Ovary green, stigma 3-lobed.

**Fruit**
Infuctescence 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**

**RFK Code**
3336