

Triodia biflora

Name

Triodia biflora Lazarides

Citation

Austral. Syst. Bot. 10: 412 (1997)

Derivation

biflora — from the Latin *bi-*, two, and *flos*, flower, in reference to the two fertile flowers per spikelet.

Common name

Two-flowered Spinifex

Synonyms

None

Diagnostic features

Foliage resinous; leaf sheath surfaces glabrous; leaf blades epistomatous (soft-type); spikelets with only 2 fertile florets, with a minute vestigial third floret on a long stalk that requires dissection to see; lower glume 2.5–3.5 mm long, elliptic, 3-nerved; lemmas lacking hairs, the apex entire or minutely notched, uniformly textured; lowest lemma midlobe 0.05–0.45 mm long; palea winged, glabrous; habit in gorges, below cliffs or on ironstone ridges near mountain summits.

Habitat

Occurs in gorges, below cliffs or on ironstone ridges near mountain summits

Distribution and frequency

Endemic to the Pilbara. Occurs patchily in the Central Hamersley Range, with an isolated small population at Shay Gap. Rare and highly localized in the landscape.

Similar species

Triodia biflora belongs to the Soft group, sharing the epistomatous (soft-type leaf blades) and resinous foliage. *Triodia biflora* is unique amongst Pilbara species in having only two fertile florets, plus a third minute vestigial floret on a long rachis (3 or more fertile florets in all other species).

Triodia biflora differs further from most other species in the Soft group by having elliptic to oblong or ovate glumes (narrowly lanceolate in all other Soft-group species except *T. epactia* and *T. pungens*).

Triodia epactia and *T. pungens* differ further in having longer (0.6 mm or more), acute to sharply acute lemma lobes and the lemma body hairy at least on the lower margins and midrib (lemma lobes 0.05–0.45 mm long and lemma entirely glabrous in *T. biflora*).

Conservation status

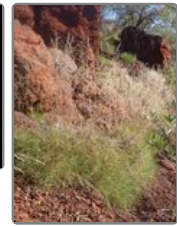
Priority Three recommended.

Identification without florets

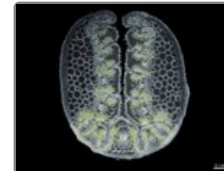
The combination of copious resin, epistomatous (soft-type) leaf blades and elliptic to oblong or ovate (i.e. not narrowly lanceolate) glumes is found only in *T. epactia* and *T. pungens*. *Triodia biflora* has shorter glumes 2.5–3.5 mm long, compared to (3)4–11 mm long in *T. epactia* and *T. pungens*.



T. biflora spikelets.



T. biflora habitat.



T. biflora inflorescence.



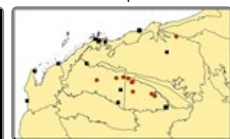
T. biflora lemmas.



T. biflora paleas.



T. biflora caryopses.



T. biflora map.

Variation

A uniform species.

Notes

The species concept of *T. biflora* used here is the same as Lazarides (1997), Lazarides *et al.* (2005) and *Ausgrass* (Sharp & Simon, 2002; Simon & Alonso, 2014), which all contain full descriptions.