

# Triodia infesta

## Name

*Triodia infesta* B.M.Anderson & M.D.Barrett, *ined.*

## Citation

*Austral. Syst. Bot.*, in press, (2017)

## Derivation

*infesta* — from the Latin *infestus* (hostile, dangerous, infested) in reference to the frequent observation of insect larval infestation in the florets.

## Common name

Infested Spinifex

## Synonyms

None

## Diagnostic features

Foliage non-resinous; leaf sheath surfaces glabrous except for shortly hairy margins; orifice shortly hairy; inflorescences unbranched; pedicels 1–3 mm long; leaf blades amphistomatous (hard-type); lower glume 5.2–6.2 mm long, elliptic, 6–9-nerved; lemmas shortly lobed, uniformly textured (indurated for most of their length and scarcely differentiated from lobes), lobes 0.5–1 mm long, not awned; distribution in Little Sandy and Great Sandy Deserts, and northern Murchison and eastern Gascoyne regions.

## Habitat

Occurs on red loamy flats, dunes or rocky hilltops.

## Distribution and frequency

Endemic to interior Western Australia. Rare and only known from a few scattered localities in the Little Sandy and Great Sandy Deserts, and northern Murchison and eastern Gascoyne regions.

## Similar species

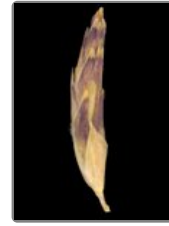
*Triodia infesta* belongs to the Basedowii group, sharing the group features of non-resinous foliage, amphistomatous (hard-type) leaf blades and many-nerved ( $\geq 6$ ) glumes.

*Triodia infesta* is distinguished from all other Basedowii group species except *T. mallota* and *T. plurinervata* by having an unbranched inflorescence (lacking side-branches and spikelets inserted directly on the main axis), and short pedicels 1–3 mm long (inflorescence either branched, or if unbranched then longest basal pedicels more than 3 mm long).

*Triodia mallota* is distinguished from *T. infesta* by being densely woolly on sheath surfaces (glabrous except for shortly hairy margins in *T. infesta*), and occurs near Pannawonica in the Pilbara (*T. infesta* east and south of the Pilbara).

*Triodia plurinervata* is distinguished by having shorter spikelets (5–9.8 mm long) shorter glumes (3–4.2 mm long), and subcoastal distribution (spikelets 12.5–17 mm long; glumes 5.2–6.2 mm long and interior distribution in *T. infesta*).

## Conservation status



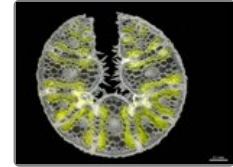
*T. infesta* spikelets.



*T. infesta* habitat.



*T. infesta* orifice and sheath.



*T. infesta* leaf section.



*T. infesta* lemmas.



*T. infesta* paleas.



*T. infesta* map.

Priority Three recommended.

### Identification without florets

*Triodia infesta* is the only species in the Great Sandy or Little Sandy deserts that shares the combination of unbranched inflorescences and many-nerved ( $\geq 6$ ) glumes.

*Triodia spicata* is similar and occurs in the same area and also has an unbranched inflorescence, but has 1–3-nerved glumes (glume nerves 6–9 in *T. infesta*).

### Variation

Very variable in habitat, from low-lying flats and rises near saline areas, to rocky hill tops.

### Notes

*Triodia infesta* was considered under a broad concept of *T. plurinervata* by Lazarides (1997), Lazarides *et al.* (2005) and *Ausgrass* (Sharp & Simon, 2002; Simon & Alonso, 2014). A full description of *T. infesta* can be found in Anderson *et al.* (2017a).