

# Triodia mallota

## Name

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

## Citation

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

## Derivation

*mallota* — from the Greek *mallotos* (fleecy, woolly) in reference to the woolly indumentum on the leaf sheaths and orifices.

## Common name

Pannawonica Woolly Spinifex

## Synonyms

*Triodia* sp. Pannawonica (B.M. Anderson & M.D. Barrett BMA 89

## Diagnostic features

Foliage non-resinous; leaves amphistomatous (hard-type); orifice and sheaths densely woolly; inflorescence unbranched; pedicels 1–2 mm long; lower glume 9–14-nerved; lemma shortly 3-lobed, indurated for most of its length, not bitextured; lowest lemma midlobe 0.2–1.8 mm long; only known from rocky metasandstone/chert slopes near Pannawonica in the west Pilbara

## Habitat

Occurs on rocky hillslopes that are a mixture of metasandstone and chert, and is not known from the pisolite mesas that are the dominant rocky substrates in the area.

## Distribution and frequency

Endemic to the Pilbara, where it is known only from a single small population near Pannawonica.

## Similar species

A member of the Basedowii group, sharing the group features of non-resinous foliage, amphistomatous (hard-type) leaf blades and many-nerved ( $\geq 6$ ) glumes. Only two other members of the Basedowii group (*T. infesta* and *T. plurinervata*) share the unbranched inflorescence and short pedicels 1–2 mm long; both species have glabrous to loosely hairy leaf sheaths and orifices (densely woolly in *T. mallota*), leaf blades <10 cm long (7–18.5 cm in *T. mallota*), and occur to the south-west or east of the Pilbara.

*Triodia spicata* also has an unbranched inflorescence and short pedicels, but has 1–3-nerved glumes, glabrous leaf sheaths, and a distribution east of the Pilbara.

## Conservation status

Priority One.

## Identification without florets

The features above apply in the absence of florets.

## Variation



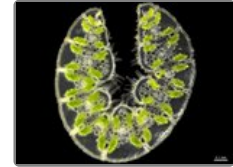
*T. mallota* spikelet.



*T. mallota* habitat.



*T. mallota* orifice and sheath.



*T. mallota* leaf section.



*T. mallota* inflorescence (a spike).



*T. mallota* glume.



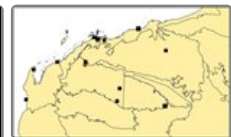
*T. mallota* lemmas.



*T. mallota* paleas.



*T. mallota* caryopses.



*T. mallota* map.

A uniform species as currently known.

## Notes

*Triodia mallota* was not represented in Lazarides (1997), Lazarides *et al.* (2005) or *Ausgrass* (Sharp & Simon, 2002; Simon & Alonso, 2014).

A full description of *T. mallota* can be found in Anderson *et al.* (2017a).

The single known population appears to have reduced genetic variation compared to other *Triodia* species (Anderson *et al.* 2017b).