

# Peppy Plants March 2014

by Eleanor Bennett

*Bolboschoenus medianus* is a dominant sedge along the Capel River but its distribution is restricted in Western Australia, only being recorded from 3 locations (see also [Bolboschoenus medianus](#)). It also occurs in South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. **Bolboschoenus** is derived from the Greek *bolbos* a bulb and *schoinos* a rush referring to the round rhizomes and **medianus** from the latin *medius* meaning middle. It is a perennial sedge up to 1.5m tall often forming dense stands which can be seen along Mallokup Road on either side of the river at the bridge. It has a creeping rhizome and 3-angled stems. The leaves are recurved towards the tips with a blade up to 50cm long and 8mm wide. The inflorescence is a cluster of several stalkless and stalked spikelets. Each spikelet is brown up to 2cm long with many bisexual flowers. The glumes are about 1cm long with jagged margin and a distinct keel that terminates in a recurved spine-like tip. The seed is black ± 3-angled, up to 4mm long and smooth on the surface. This is a significant species as it is listed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife as a Priority One Flora – which indicates that it is only known from a few, usually less than 5 populations, all of which are under immediate threat. Priority 1 Flora are candidates for declaration as rare flora but are in need of further survey. None of these plants can be removed without first obtaining permission from the Department of Parks and Wildlife



A small clump of *Bolboschoenus medianus* near the mouth of the Capel River.



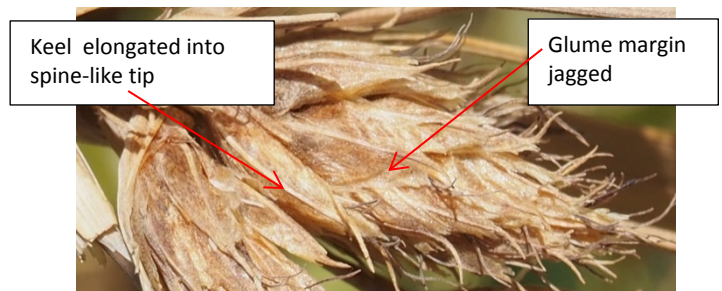
Several branched inflorescence.



Creeping rhizome.



The three angles to the stem are obvious in this photograph.



Spikelet illustrating jagged margins to glumes and the distinct keel that is elongated into a spine-like tip.



The seeds are dark brown to black and shiny