

Ficinia nodosa

(Rottb.) R.Br.

KNOTTED CLUB-RUSH

Flowering period: November–March.**Description:** Rhizomatous, leafless or with highly reduced leaves confined to the base, spreading herb to 90 cm high with densely tufted stems that are rigid and erect in exposed, dry situations, becoming lax in shaded or well-watered sites. Flowers in dense, brown globular heads up to 2.5 cm wide. Seeds small, dust-like, three-angled, 1 mm long and easily dispersed.**Pollination:** Wind pollinated.**Distribution:** Widespread and can be locally common on coastal sand dunes and in sandy pockets over limestone from Geraldton to Esperance. Thought to be widely spread throughout temperate regions in the southern hemisphere.**Propagation:** Easily and effectively propagated from seeds sown lightly over the surface of seed-raising mix. Lightly till the seeds and carefully water. Seedlings emerge in 14–21 days and can be pricked out into pots at the three-leaf stage. Seeds of the club-rush require light to germinate so avoid burial of the seed that might exclude light. Collect seed heads when in the early stages of drying and allow to dry in a warm, dry place.**Uses in restoration:** Club-rush is a useful species that tolerates both frontal to secondary dune situations. The species establishes well in restoration sites from transplanted nursery stock and is highly beneficial for assisting with dune stabilisation as plants can produce roots that extend for up to 2 m from the parent plant and assist in binding the soil. The clonal nature of the species provides added protection to other species.**Notes:** A very useful landscaping species for the home garden; however, it has a tendency to spread by seed and may become weedy in well-watered sites. Previously known as *Isolepis nodosa*.

Habit



Flowers



Distribution