



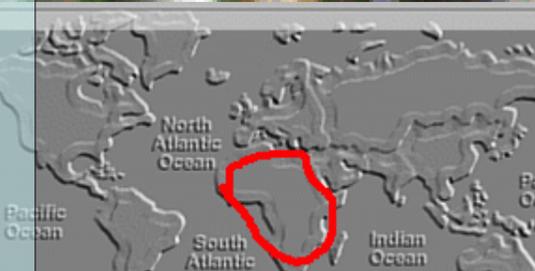
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Spiny Rush- *Juncus acutus*

Origin: Africa and North America

Physical Characteristics: Shortly rhizomatous, tussocky perennial rush to 1.6 m high. Flowering stems and stem-like leaves arise from the base at varying angles giving the whole plant a characteristic globe shape. Fruit an ovoid 3-celled brown capsule. Seeds 1.2–2 mm long, brown. Flowers: Flowering stems (culms) 2–4 mm wide. Inflorescence 4–13 cm long, consisting of clusters of 1–6 flowers; 1 or 2 leaf-like bracts 4–25 cm long at base of inflorescence. Stamens 6. Flowers throughout year but mostly spring and summer.

About **300,000** people in Australia recognise themselves with North American and African ancestry
www.abs.gov.au-2001 Census

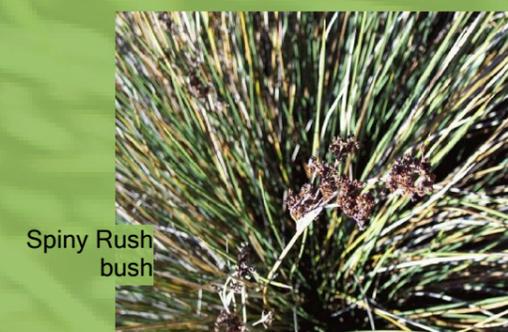


Inflorescence and seed pods



Capsules & tailed seeds

Roots & base of plants



Spiny Rush bush

Family: Juncaceae

Known Hazards: Although no reports of toxicity have been seen for this species, there is a report that one member of this genus is possibly toxic to mammals.

Habitat: Sandy sea shores and dune slacks, occasionally in salt marshes.

Edibility Rating: 0 (1-5)

Medicinal Rating: 0 (1-5)

Edible Uses

None known

Medicinal Uses

None known

Other Uses

Basketry; Thatching; Weaving. The stems are used in making woven baskets, thatching, weaving mats etc.

Notes: Widespread in damp places and infrequently inundated watercourses on the coast and inland. The sharp spines, that project at many angles, make it especially dangerous for children.

Basket weaving

Woman in Ghana weaving a basket .



Rush is used as natural fibre for weaving in many cultures around the world.

The fibre gets essicated then dyed and weaved for domestic uses and as a source of surplus income.