

Spiny-headed Mat-rush



S Robins

FAMILY: Laxmanniaceae
prev Xanthorrhoeacea

HABIT: Tussocks 30cm-1.5m high.

LEAVES: Long, simple, strappy leaves to 1m with 2-3 teeth towards the apex.

FLOWER/FRUITS: Separate male and female plants. The perfumed, creamy-brown flowers, 3-5mm in diameter are borne on auxiliary 'spikes'. The fruit is a three-valved capsule surrounded by sharp pointed bracts and containing 1-3 white 'rice-like' seeds.

Fruits December-January.

Propagation: Seeds need to be removed from capsule before sowing.

LOCAL HABITAT: Riparian and rocky hillsides in open forest.

DISTRIBUTION: Coastal and subcoastal areas from Cape York to Tasmania.



S Robins

GENERAL: Mat rushes are adaptable, hardy, clumping plants, and are often used in median strips and gardens. They provide habitat and cover for small native animals such as skinks. A valuable revegetation species for creek banks where water erosion control is needed.

REFERENCES: Eric Anderson, 2003 *Plants of Central Queensland: their identification and uses.*