



photo: J. Lindner

## *Tricoryne elatior*



floralbank

photo: L. Oliver

*Tricoryne elatior* is a wiry, relatively inconspicuous herb to 40 cm high [10], but may reach 1 m [8]. The rootstock consists of a short, erect rhizome (underground stem) and the roots are thick but not fleshy [9]. The leaves are grass-like, crowded and tufting from the base [9].

Common names include Yellow Rush-lily [11], Yellow Grass-lily [12], Star Lily, Yellow Autumn Lily [4].

Population map:

[www.ala.org.au/explore/species-maps/](http://www.ala.org.au/explore/species-maps/)

### Natural Populations

*Tricoryne elatior* is found in all mainland states except NT [8]. It is widespread on moist to dry soil in open forests at lower altitudes, woodlands, grasslands, heaths, and sometimes in swamps [8, 11, 14].

### Flowering and Seeds

*T. elatior* usually flowers between October and March, but also at other times of the year, particularly in response to rain [8]. The flowers are a bright yellow colour and open on sunny afternoons [10].

The fruit is the capsule that contains 4-6 angular seeds. Fruit matures 2-3 months after flowering, and is still green when the seeds are ripe. Seeds are black and firm when mature [2, 10]. Collect capsules by hand and put upside-down into a paper bag. Thresh lightly to release seeds once capsules are dry [2]. Sieve to clean. Fresh seed is dormant [10].

After flowering the petals and sepals twist spirally, which makes the genus easy to identify [1, 14].

## Cultivation and Uses

*T. elatior* is very difficult to grow from seed. The seed appears to have high viability, however usually poor germination results. Smoke treatment may improve germination [1, 5]. The most efficient use of seed in the propagation of this species may be in nursery raised tubestock. Only limited field emergence was recorded for this species with 0.41% of seed sown emerging [3].

The species is usually propagated by division [11]. Transplants have been the only means used to bring this species into cultivation in Canberra [14]. *T. elatior* can reproduce vegetatively from rhizomes and benefits from disturbance by fire to decrease competition from other plants [9].

*T. elatior* will grow in a wide range of soils if adequate moisture is applied, and the soil is well-drained [12]. Plants require a sunny position and are frost-hardy [14]. It is an excellent ground cover or rockery plant [13].

*T. elatior* is eaten by stock but its small bulk and relatively infrequent occurrence make it of little value as a forage species [4].

photo: J. Lindner



photo: G. Miller

To source seeds or plants:  
[www.grassywoodlands.org.au](http://www.grassywoodlands.org.au)



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## References

- [1] Walker, K., Burrows, G. and McMahon, L. (2001). *Bidgee Bush, An identification guide to common native plants species of the South Western Slopes of New South Wales*. Greening Australia, South West Slopes.
- [2] Ralph, M. (1993). *Seed Collection of Australian Native Plants For Revegetation, Tree Planting and Direct Seeding*. 2nd ed. Fitzroy, Victoria: Bushland Horticulture.
- [3] Murphy R.G. and Dalton G.S. (1996). Understorey establishment research. *Technical Report No 249*. Primary Industries South Australia.
- [4] Cunningham, G.M., Mulham, W.E., Milthorpe, P.L. and Leigh, J.H. (1981). *Plants of Western New South Wales*. D. West: NSW Government Printing Office.
- [5] Ralph, M. (1997). *Growing Australian Native Plants from Seed For Revegetation, Tree Planting and Direct Seeding*. Fitzroy, Victoria: Murray Ralph/Bushland Horticulture.
- [6] Eddy, D., Mallinson, D., Rehwinkel, R. and Sharp, S. (1998). *Grassland Flora, a field guide for the Southern Tablelands (NSW&ACT)*. Canberra, ACT.
- [7] Wrigley J. F. and Fagg M. (1988). *Australian Native Plants. Propagation, cultivation and use in landscaping*. 3rd Ed. Australia: William Collins Publishers, Sydney.

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## Internet links

- [8] PlantNET National Herbarium of New South Wales: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=s&p&name=Tricoryne~elatior>
- [9] Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment: [http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter/nsf/Attachments/LJEM-76QVA9/\\$FILE/Tricoryne%20elatior.pdf](http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter/nsf/Attachments/LJEM-76QVA9/$FILE/Tricoryne%20elatior.pdf)
- [10] The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust: [http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/science/Evolutionary\\_Ecology\\_Research/Ecology\\_of\\_Cumberland\\_Plain\\_Woodland/woodland\\_plants/tricoryne\\_elatior](http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/science/Evolutionary_Ecology_Research/Ecology_of_Cumberland_Plain_Woodland/woodland_plants/tricoryne_elatior)
- [11] Yarra Ranges Local Plant Directory: [http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Residents/Yarra\\_Ranges\\_Plant\\_Directory/Lower\\_Storey/Lilies\\_and\\_Iris/Tricoryne\\_elatior](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Residents/Yarra_Ranges_Plant_Directory/Lower_Storey/Lilies_and_Iris/Tricoryne_elatior)
- [12] Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association: <http://www.iffa.org.au/tricoryne-elatior>
- [13] Greening Australia Nursery, Queensland: [http://www.qld.greeningaustralia.org.au/gaqotsasp/07\\_plant\\_search/features.asp?SpeciesName=Tricoryne%20elatior](http://www.qld.greeningaustralia.org.au/gaqotsasp/07_plant_search/features.asp?SpeciesName=Tricoryne%20elatior)
- [14] Australian National Botanic Gardens & Australian National Herbarium, Harden Species List: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/greening-grainbelt/harden-species-list.xls>