

Menegazzia minuta

FAMILY: PARMELIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Menegazzia minuta*, P. James & Kantvilas, *Lichenologist* 19:24 (1987)

COMMON NAME: Lichen

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) endangered

Description

A tiny, flat, leafy lichen that forms rosettes rarely more than 1 cm wide. This species is characterised by having hollow, olive-brown, inflated lobes up to 0.6 mm wide and scattered, inflated reproductive outgrowths. *Menegazzia minuta* contains atranorin, protolichesterinic and lichesterinic as the main chemical compounds (Flora of Australia 1992).

Distribution and Habitat

Menegazzia minuta is endemic to Tasmania. It is restricted to the canopy twigs of *Eucryphia lucida* (leatherwood) trees in thamnic rainforest in the north west of the State (Flora of Australia 1992, Kantvilas 2003).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include the Sumac Road area and Mt Black (south of Tullah).

Known Reserves

This species is not known from any reserve.

Ecology and Management

Menegazzia minuta is very distinctive and easily recognised canopy lichen. It was discovered in 1981 in the Sumac Road area during a study of the vertical zonation of lichens in rainforest trees. The work was being undertaken at a site being felled as a rainforest logging trial. The species was locally abundant on a few of the felled *Eucryphia lucida* (leatherwood) trees at the site. It has been searched for specifically over the last 20 years in thousands of localities. The search area has specifically included the Sumac area, particularly those adjacent to the original logging trial such as the Julias River Forest Reserve (Kantvilas 2003).

Due to its extreme rarity, this species is at risk from stochastic events. Logging also poses a threat to the species.

Conservation Status Assessment

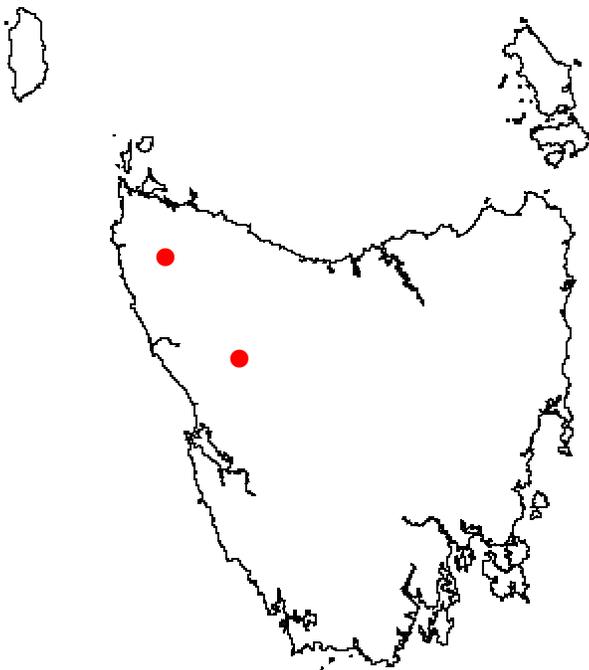
Under the guidelines for listing this species qualifies for listing as endangered and has been recently added to the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

Further Information

- Flora of Australia 1992, *Volume 54: Lichens - Introduction Lecanorales 1*, Australian Government Printing Service, Canberra, Australia.
- Kantvilas, G 2003, *Menegazzia minuta: Nomination for Listing or De-Listing of a Taxon of Flora or Fauna*, Threatened Species Scientific Advisory Committee, Hobart, Tasmania.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, April 2004)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Sumac, Tullah.

Date last modified: 14/04/2004