

Acacia uncifolia



Acacia uncifolia. Image: N. Lawrence.

FAMILY: MIMOSACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Acacia uncifolia*
(J.M.Black) O'Leary, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 21:
100 (2007)

COMMON NAME: wirilda

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not
Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A tall, hairless shrub or small tree with reddish, angular branchlets and erect or spreading phyllodes (flattened stems that resemble leaves). **Leaves:** The leaves (phyllodes) are narrow and linear, often ash-green and smooth. They are between 6–12 cm long and 3–15 mm broad with a blunt tip that is usually bent backwards and ends in a short, hooked point. **Flowers:** The flowers are small, bright yellow and arranged in spherical heads that are arranged in racemes (succession of flowers, the oldest at the base). Flowers summer to mid-autumn (Lynch 1993). **Fruit:** The pods are brown, thin, straight and flattened between 6–20 cm long and 6–10 mm wide. The seeds have reddish stalks (funicles). (Description from Curtis & Morris 1975 and Lynch 1993) **Taxonomy:** *Acacia uncifolia* has previously been known in Tasmania as *Acacia retinodes* (Curtis & Morris 1975) and *Acacia retinodes* var. *uncifolia* (Buchanan 2005).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland *Acacia uncifolia* occurs in coastal areas of Victoria and South Australia (O'Leary 2007). In Tasmania the species is known from the north of Flinders Island, where it is found on soils derived from calcareous limestone in coastal heath, heathy scrub and dry open woodland with *Allocasuarina verticillata* emergents (Lynch 1993). There are unconfirmed records from Cape Barren Island, while it also purportedly occurs on King Island (O'Leary 2007). Occurrences on mainland Tasmania are assumed to have originated from ornamental plantings.

Key Sites and Populations

The species greatest concentration occurs within coastal areas near Marshall Bay on Flinders Island in an area of 14 by 12 kilometres, with greater than 1000 individuals at 15 sites (Lynch 1993).

Known Reserves

Reserved in Emita Nature Recreation Area and Mount Tanner Nature Recreation Area.

Ecology and Management

Acacia uncifolia is known to resprout from rhizomes (underground stems) and germinate after fire from soil-stored seed (Lynch 1993). Active flowering has been recorded between spring and summer, with all stages of floral development recognisable at one time. Clearing and subdivision has fragmented the habitat of *Acacia uncifolia* with several of the remaining sites confined to roadsides or private land. These areas are prone to fire and damage from recreational activities. Although disturbance is beneficial for this species, studies indicate that longer fire intervals and moderate to hot temperatures are probably required to enable regeneration from seed (Lynch 1993).

Bees are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

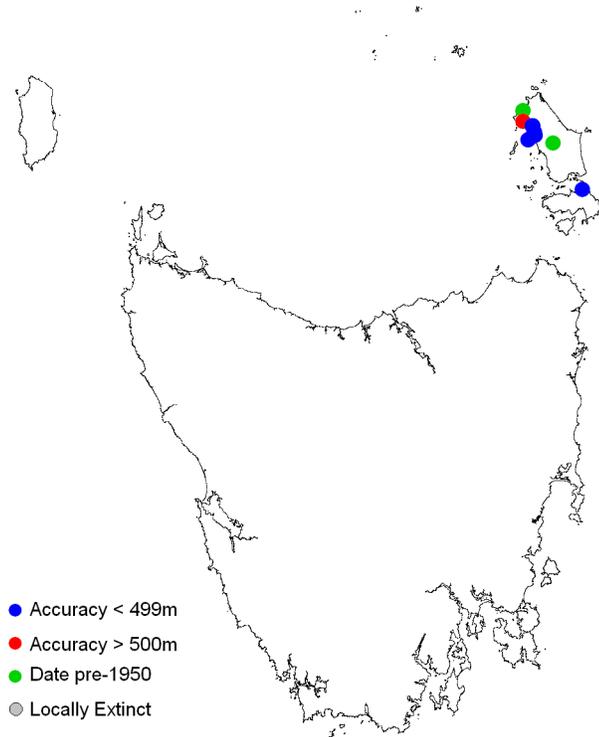
The status of the species on King Island and Cape Barren Island should be determined prior to any re-assessment of its conservation status.

Further Information

- Buchanan, AM 2005, A census of the vascular plants of Tasmania and Index to *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*. Fourth edition. Tasmanian Herbarium Occasional Publication No. 7, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania, Part 1*, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Lynch, AJJ 1993, Conservation Biology and Management of 16 Rare or Threatened FABACEAE Species in Tasmania, Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program Project No. 4, Parks & Wildlife Service, Hobart.
- O'Leary, MC 2007, Review of *Acacia retinodes* and closely related species, *A. uncifolia* and *A. provincialis* (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae: sect. Phyllodineae), *Journal of the Adelaide Botanical Gardens* 21: 95–109.

Tasmanian Distribution

(From Natural Values Atlas Records, August 2008)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Emita, Leventhorpe, Puncheon, Tanner.

Date last modified: 1/09/2008

View

<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries and Water, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 6233 6556; fax (03) 6233 3477.

Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.