Zieria littoralis

Zieria littoralis. H&A Wapstra.

FAMILY: RUTACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Zieria littoralis,* J.A.Armstrong, *Aust. Syst. Bot*. 15(3): 389 (2002)

COMMON NAME: Dwarf zieria

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

An erect, compact shrub between 0.2-2 metres tall with greyish-green foliage and densely covered with short, velvety hairs. **Leaves:** The leaves are shortly stalked and arranged oppositely along the stems. The leaves are composed of three leaflets, which are between 6-15 mm long and thick with margins that roll under toward the bottom surface of the leaf. The tips of the leaves are blunt. **Flowers:** The flowers are long stalked and white or pink in colour. They are between 6-8 mm in diameter with 4 spreading petals and borne in small, dense clusters at the end of a 10-25 mm long stalk originating in the leaf axils (where the stem meets the leaf). Flowering occurs in spring. **Fruit:** The fruit opens when ripe and the inner wall of the ovary separates elastically from the outer wall (description from Cunningham *et al.* 1992, Curtis 1975). Herbarium specimens have been collected through most of the year. **This species was previously known as *Zieria cytisoides* (*sensu* W.M. Curtis 1975).**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs from near Taratha in south east New South Wales (near Victorian border) to the Howe Ranges – Mt Carlyle area in East Gippsland, Victoria. In Tasmania, *Zieria littoralis* is found along coastal rocky shores in the central East Coast area (Curtis & Morris 1975).

Zieria littoralis. S. Harris.

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Bicheno and the Freycinet Peninsula.

Known Reserves
Reserved in the Lookout State Reserve at Bicheno and in Freycinet National Park.

Ecology and Management
Zieria littoralis displays considerable variation in leaf dimensions, the largest in plants growing in shady or less exposed positions. Research suggests that the species is variable in its compatibility response, however most samples were self-compatible (Armstrong 2002). Flies are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

Root suckering has been observed in *Zieria littoralis* and the species will regenerate vegetatively after fire (Armstrong 2002).

Modification of coastal vegetation is a threat to this species. It is geographically very restricted and its ecological requirements are poorly understood. Weed invasion is also a significant problem (S. Harris pers. comm).

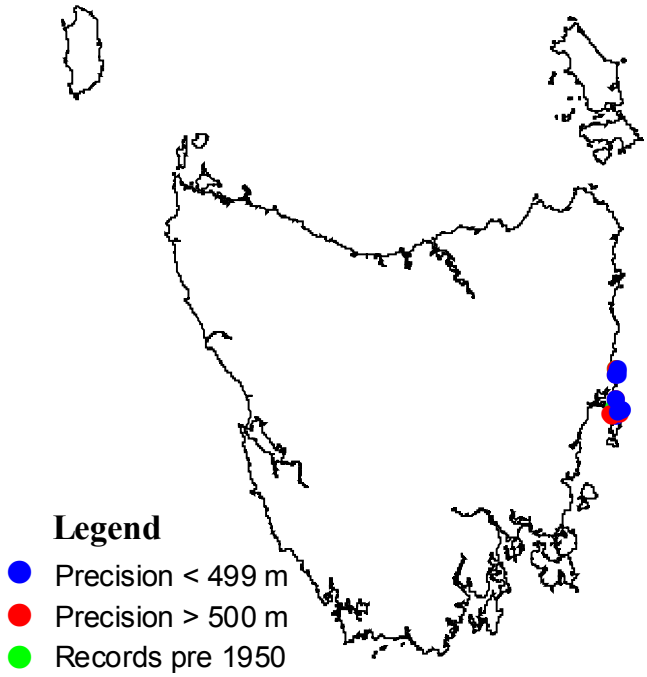
Conservation Status Assessment
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Zieria littoralis*.

Further Information

- Armstrong, JA 2002, *Zieria* (Rutaceae): A Systematic and Evolutionary Study, *Australian Systematic Botany*, vol.15, pp.277-463.
- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania,* Part 1*,* Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Barker, P, Brown, MJ, Harris, S & Mackie, R 1994, *The Reservation Status of Tasmanian Vascular Plant Communities*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust Incorporated, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit, January 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Bicheno, Coles Bay, Friendly, Lodi.

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