

Cyphanthera tasmanica



Cyphanthera tasmanica. G. Jordan.

FAMILY: SOLANACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Cyphanthera tasmanica*, Miers, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* ser.2, 11: 377 (1853)

COMMON NAME: Tasmanian ray flower

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A short-lived, erect shrub between 2-4 metres tall. The branches and leaves are yellowish in appearance due to the presence of stalked, star-shaped hairs. **Leaves:** The leaves are between 1-4 cm long with a short stalk, blunt tip and a margin that is bent backwards towards the underside of the leaf. **Flowers:** The flowers are creamy-yellow and borne on short stalks in groups of 1-3, toward the ends of numerous short branches. **Fruit:** The fruit is a reddish-brown capsule between 4-5 mm in diameter (description from Curtis 1981). Observations of this species have been made from May to February. **This species was previously called *Anthocercis tasmanica*.**

Distribution and Habitat

Cyphanthera tasmanica is endemic to Tasmania and is confined to the East Coast in gullies and on hillsides (Curtis 1981).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Kelvedon, Fingal, Reidle Bay (Maria Island), Cape Forestier (Freycinet Peninsula), Gully of Sweetwater Creek, Mt. Puzzler (St. Pauls River), Lonny Creek, Coles Bay, Fall Gully Creek (Little Swanport River) and Schouten Island.

Known Reserves

Apslawn Forest Reserve, Butlers Ridge Nature Reserve, Buxton River Forest Reserve, Cygnet River Forest Reserve, Dickies Ridge Forest Reserve, Eastern Tiers Forest Reserve, Freycinet National Park, Lost Falls Forest Reserve, Maria Island National Park, Mount Puzzler Forest Reserve, Swan River Forest Reserve and Wye River State Reserve.

Ecology and Management

This species is usually present after fire, at which time it appears in large numbers and lives for about a decade. The seed persists in the soil for at least 20 years (A. Pyrke pers. comm).

Conservation Status Assessment

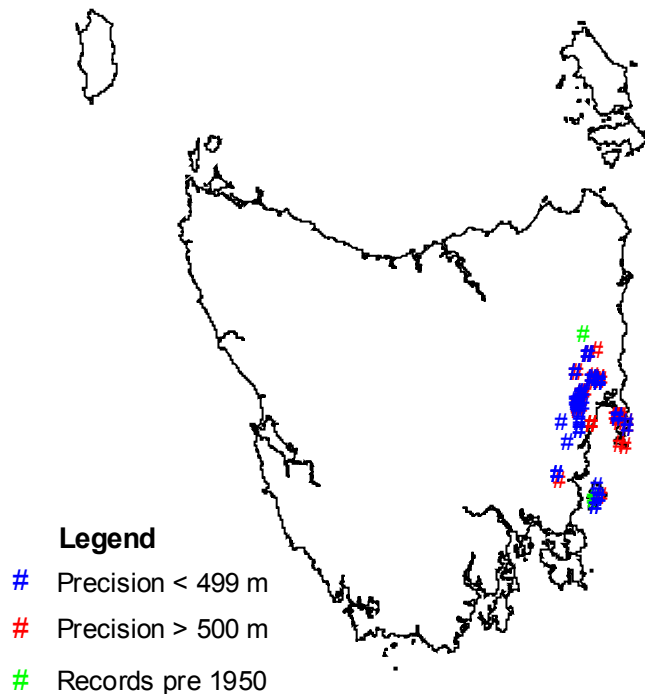
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Cyphanthera tasmanica*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 3, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick JB 2007, Collateral benefit: unconscious conservation of threatened plant species. *Australian Journal of Botany*, vol. 55, pp 221–224.
- 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 records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Applawn, Coles Bay, Colonels, Cranbrook, Darlington, Fingal, Graham, Henry, Leake, Mayfield, Orford, Peron, Riedle, Royalty, Roys, Schouten, St John, Swansea, Tooms, Triabunna.

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