

Elaeocarpus reticulatus



Elaeocarpus reticulatus. R. Barnes.

FAMILY: ELAEOCARPACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*,
Smith in Rees, *Cycl.* 12, *Elaeocarpus* no.6
(1809)

COMMON NAME: Blueberry ash

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A shrub or small tree usually growing to 3 to 10 m tall but trees can sometimes reach 20 m tall in wet forest. **Leaves:** The leaves are light green (often turning red before falling off) and shortly stalked. They are elliptical to oblong in shape, between 6 to 10 cm long and hairless with a serrated/toothed margin. **Flowers:** The flowers are white (sometimes flushed with pink) and hang from stalks approximately 10 mm long, with fringed petals. Flowering from October to January. **Fruit:** This species has bright blue, hard fruits with a central 'stone' that may persist on the tree for several weeks before being eaten by birds or falling onto the ground (description from Barnes *et al.* 2000).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species is recorded from Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. In Tasmania, *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* is restricted to King and Flinders Islands where it mostly occurs in moist, sheltered sites in lowland forests. This plant occurs in a range of habitats on King Island, including wet eucalypt forest, tall/wet scrub, riparian vegetation, coastal scrub and tea-tree scrub (from Barnes *et al.* 2002).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites on Flinders Island include: Darling Range gully, Leventhorpe Creek valley, south Pats River, Bob Smiths Gully, Summer Camp Gully and the east side of Strzelecki National Park. Key sites on King Island include: Grassy, Sea Elephant River, Yarra Creek and Red Hut Road.



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Known Reserves

Reserved in the Brougham Sugarloaf Conservation Area, Darling Range Conservation Area, Kentford Forest Nature Reserve and Strzelecki National Park.

Ecology and Management

Land clearance and fire are two significant threats to this species on King Island. *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* does not recover vegetatively (side shoots) after it is burnt so it must regenerate from seed either stored in the soil or from seed dispersed to the area by birds. Seedlings appear to be highly palatable to both stock and native grazers (e.g. wallabies) (from Barnes *et al.* 2002).

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

Conservation Status Assessment

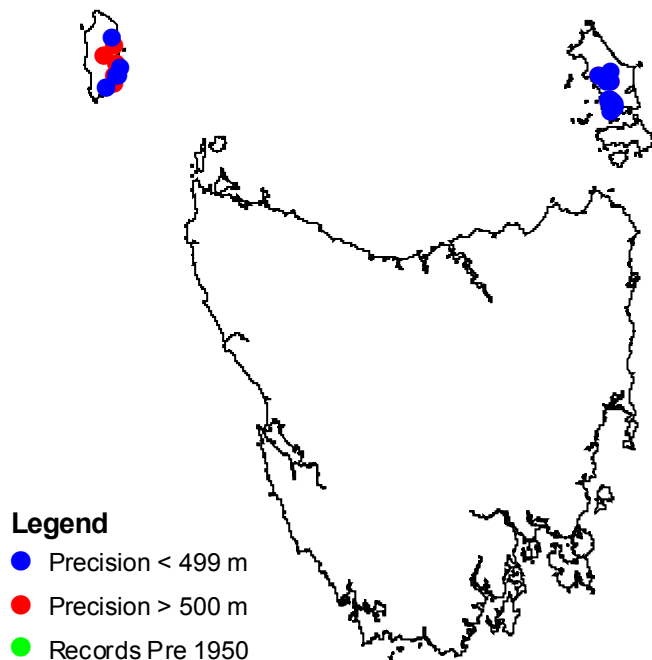
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*.

Further Information

- Barnes, RW, Duncan, F & Todd, CS 2002, *The Native Vegetation of King Island, Bass Strait*, Nature Conservation Report 02/6, Nature Conservation Branch, Resource Management & Conservation, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Walsh, NG & Entwistle, TJ eds 1996, *Flora of Victoria*, Volume 3, Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, April 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Fisher, Grassy, Leventhorpe, Loccota, Memana, Naracoopa, Saltwater, Sea Elephant, Whitemark.

Date last modified: 09/04/03