

Frankenia pauciflora var. *gunnii*



Frankenia pauciflora var. *gunnii*.
Photographs N. Lawrence.

FAMILY: FRANKENIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Frankenia pauciflora*,
var. *gunnii*, Summerh., *J. Linn. Soc. Bot.* 48:
366 (1930)

COMMON NAME: Sea heath

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A small, much branched perennial undershrub that creeps along the ground or slopes gently upwards (between 30-90 cm long). This species is usually mat-like with short erect branchlets and is nearly hairless or covered in tiny curved hairs. **Leaves:** The linear leaves are arranged oppositely with margins that curve back towards the underside of the leaf. They are dull green in colour and between 3-7 mm long and approximately 1mm broad. **Flowers:** The flowers are pink (rarely white) and stalkless, sitting in the forks of the branches. They have 5-6 petals between 9-12 mm long. The calyx (outermost whorl of floral parts) has 5 ribs and is between 5-6 mm long. Flowering time is most of the year (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The capsules contain several seeds and have smooth or minutely warty surfaces (description from Cunningham *et al.* 1992, Curtis & Morris 1975). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from October to February. **This species was previously known as *Frankenia pauciflora*.**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia and Western Australia. In Tasmania, *Frankenia pauciflora* var. *gunnii* is restricted to the Flinders Islands and Short and Marcus Islands located in Robbins Strait on the north-west coast. On Flinders it is found only on exposed granite in the spray zone, usually on the north and north-western shores (Harris *et al.* 2001). Plants from Short and Marcus Islands were located in estuarine mudflats. No other varieties of *Frankenia pauciflora* occur in Tasmania.



Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Preservation Island, Cone Island, Clarke Island, Rocky Cape to Black River Road, Rum Island, Spike Island, Little Goose Island, Short Island and Marcus Island.

Known Reserves

Chappell Islands Nature Reserve, Clarke Island Nature Reserve, Goose Island Conservation Area, Strzelecki National Park and the Sydney Cove Historic Site.

Ecology and Management

It has been noted that this species is of no pastoral value.

Conservation Status Assessment

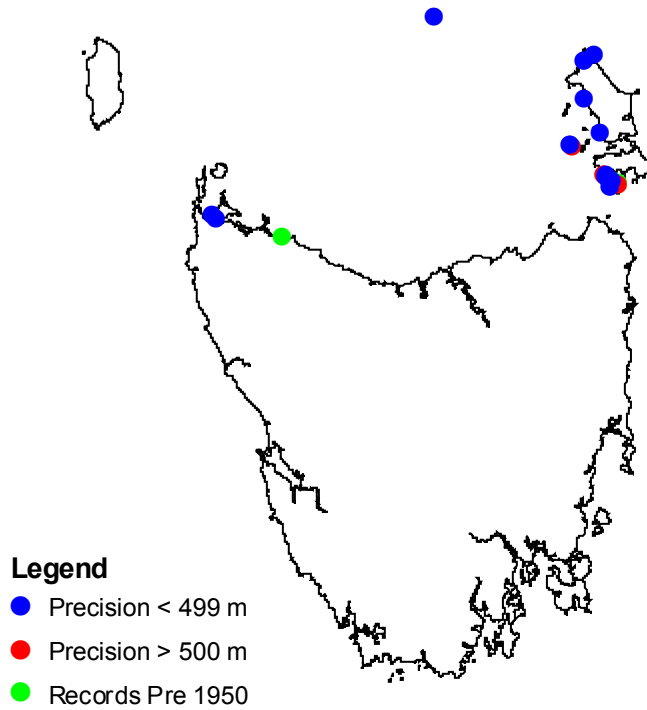
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Frankenia pauciflora* var. *gunnii*.

Further Information

- 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.
- Harris, S, Buchanan, A & Connolly, A 2001, *One Hundred Islands: The Flora of the Outer Furneaux*, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.
- Strickland, K & P 1994, *Peninsular Plants*, Volume Two, Kareelah Bush Nursery, Melbourne.
- Underwood, S 1998, *Synecology & Conservation of Vegetation on Aeolian Calcarene, Flinders Island, Bass Strait*, BAppSc thesis, University of Tasmania, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, August 2005)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Badger, Emita, Grim, Loccota, Palana, Preservation, Rocky Cape, Sister, Studland.

Date last modified: 03/08/2005