

Glossostigma elatinoides



Glossostigma elatinoides.
H&A Wapstra.

FAMILY: SCROPHULARIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Glossostigma elatinoides*, (Benth.) Benth. ex Hook.f., *Fl. Nov.-Zel.* 1: 189 (1852)

COMMON NAME: Small mudmat

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A small, hairless herb that is much branched. **Stems:** The stems are rooted at the nodes (stem joints) and creep along the ground. This species forms dense patches between 5-10 cm or more in diameter. **Leaves:** The leaves are arranged in opposite pairs along the stem with linear blades (between 2-5 mm long) that can be spoon shaped or oblong. The tip is blunt and the margins are whole with a base that is narrowed into a stalk, which may be as long as the blade and can be further elongated after the flowering stage. **Flowers:** Single flowers occur in the axils (where stem meets leaves) on slender stalks that are shorter or the same length as the leaves. The calyx (outermost whorl of floral parts) is between 2-3 mm long with four blunt and unequal lobes. The flower is white and fused at the base to form a tube, which is nearly as long as the calyx. The petals have two-lips with the lower lip slightly larger and 3 lobed. There are 4 stamens (male flower parts), which are shorter than the flower. The stigma (elongated female part) is large and bearded. Flowering is from December to May (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is a capsule that is egg-shaped to spherical in outline and shorter than the calyx (description from Curtis 1967).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. It is also known from New Zealand. In Tasmania, *Glossostigma elatinoides* is found submerged in shallow water and on the banks of streams (Curtis 1967).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species includes Lake Leake, Lake Arthur, and the Prosser River.

Known Reserves

This species is reserved in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and the Lake Leake Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

There is currently no information available regarding the ecology and management of this species.

Conservation Status Assessment

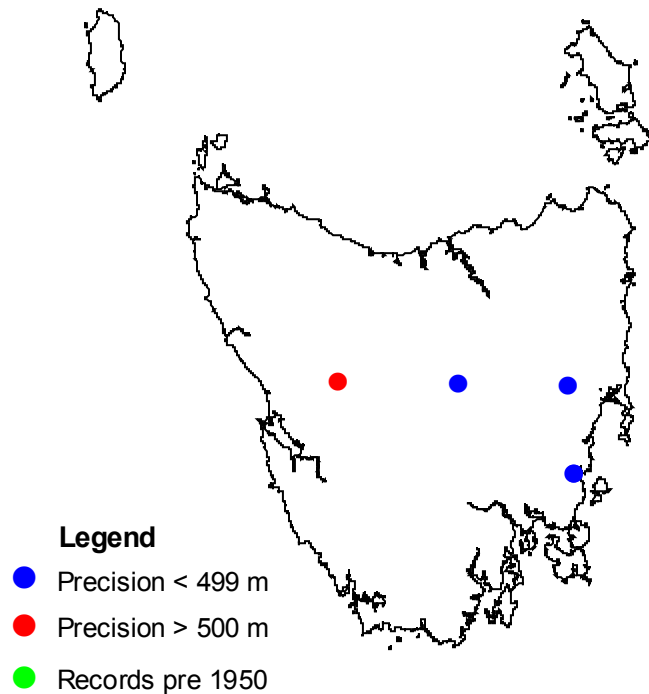
Reassessment of *Glossostigma elatinoides* may be warranted due to the paucity of records though more information may be required for a meaningful assessment.

Further Information

- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 3, Government Printer, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Arthurs, Dome, Leake, Orford.

Date last modified: 03/09/03