

Hedycarya angustifolia



Hedycarya angustifolia
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen

FAMILY: MONIMIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Hedycarya angustifolia*,
R.Cunn., *Ann. Nat. Hist. ser.1* 1: 215 (1838)

COMMON NAME: Australian mulberry

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

Hedycarya angustifolia is a tall shrub or small tree growing up to 12 metres high, often with several stout stems arising near ground-level. **Leaves:** The leaves are between 7–10 cm long and 2.5–4.5 wide, stalked and arranged in opposite pairs along the stem. They are roughly egg-shaped and have toothed leaf margins, with the tip tapering to a narrow point. The upper leaf surface is dark green with a coarse network of yellowish veins, while the lower surface is pale green. The leaves are aromatic when crushed. **Flowers:** The flowers are unisexual, consisting of short cymes on stalks up to 5 mm long. The male flowers have 8 short lobes and about 35–45 densely clustered stamens. Flowering occurs from August to November. **Fruit:** The fruit is a collection of fleshy units packed into an almost globular yellow mass c. 8 mm in diameter. (Description from Curtis 1967 and Foreman 1996.)

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland *Hedycarya angustifolia* occurs in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland (Foreman 1996). In Tasmania, the species occurs only on King Island, where it occurs along rivers, creeks and deep gullies (Curtis 1967; Barnes *et al.* 2000).

Key Sites and Populations

Lower reaches of Mt Stanley Creek and Seal River, and tributaries of the Grassy River. Also in good numbers along Yarra Creek, the Etrick and Pass Rivers, and creeks in the vicinity of Pegarrah State Forest.

Known Reserves

Not known from any formal reserve.

Ecology and Management

Barnes *et al.* (2002) states that little is known regarding the ecology of this species. Fire, land clearance and stock damage are considered the main threats to this species on King Island. The fire regimes that have dominated the landscape since European settlement appear to have led to a diminution in available habitat, the species persisting mainly in wet and infrequently burnt habitats.

Observations from the Pegarah State Forest area over the period 2003–2007 suggest that *Hedycarya angustifolia* has the ability to regenerate from physical disturbance. Plants appear to have germinated following plantation harvesting, while coppicing was also evident.



Hedycarya angustifolia along the lower reaches of the Seal River (R. Schahinger).

Further research needs to be conducted to determine the species' response to fire and disturbance. Stock trampling and grazing pose a threat to both *Hedycarya angustifolia* adult plants and seedlings. Barnes *et al.* (2002) suggests that areas in which this species is encountered should be managed as stock and fire-free zones. A suitable vegetation buffer should be kept around riverine habitats to maintain a moist environment conducive to its growth and expansion.

Conservation Status Assessment

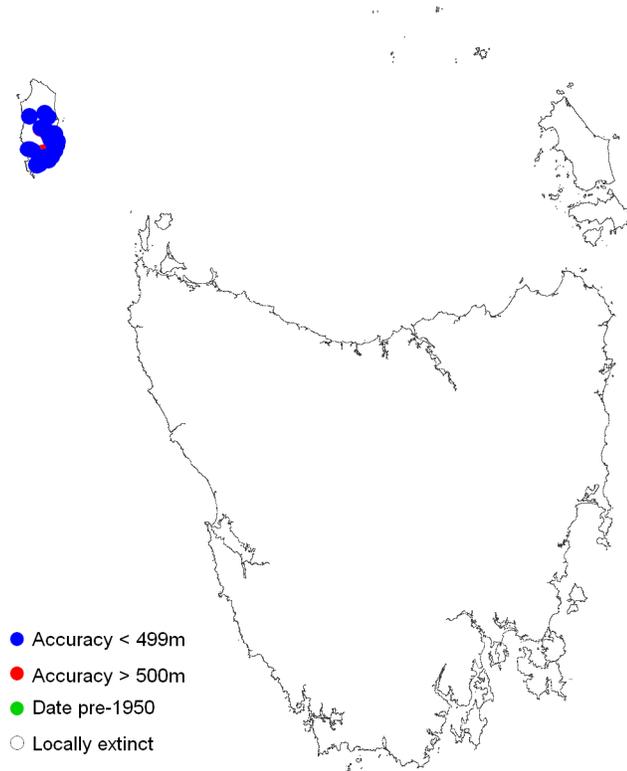
Surveys by Threatened Species Section personnel in 2007 revealed the presence of significant *Hedycarya angustifolia* populations on Crown land along the lower reaches of the Seal River and Mt Stanley Creek. These areas are due to be proclaimed Conservation Areas (CLAC Project Team 2005); reassessment of the species' status may be warranted following their proclamation.

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.
- CLAC Project Team 2005, *Consultation Report and Recommendations: Reservation of 20 parcels on King Island*. Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.
- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 3, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Foreman, DB 1996, *Monimiaceae*. In *Flora of Victoria, Volume 3* (Eds NG Walsh & DB Foreman), Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Section records, February 2008)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Grassy, Loorana, Naracoopa, Pearshape, Saltwater, Sea Elephant, Stokes.

Date last modified: 21/02/2008.

View

<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

Contact details

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Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.