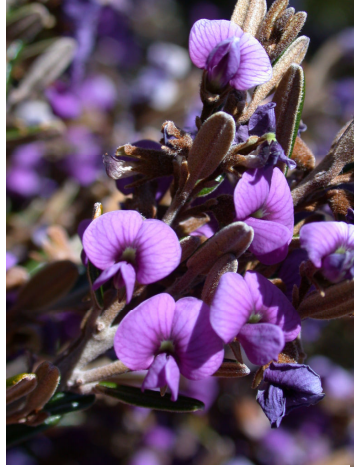


# *Hovea montana*



*Hovea montana*.  
S. Harris.

**FAMILY:** FABACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Hovea montana*,  
(Hook.f.) J.H.Ross, *Muelleria* 6: 427 (1988)

**COMMON NAME:** Mountain hovea

**COMMONWEALTH STATUS:** (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

**TASMANIAN STATUS:** (*TSP Act*) rare

## Description

A shrub to 0.5 m tall that is usually broader than it is high. A hairy covering is present on all the parts. The hairs are white-grey or brown/tan towards the tip of the branchlets and can be curled, crumpled or nearly straight. **Leaves:** The leaves are narrow-oblong in shape and between 1-3.2 cm long and 3-7 mm wide. The bases are round and the margins are bent towards the lower leaf surfaces. The upper leaf surfaces are green, nearly glossy, hairless and smooth with obvious veins. The lower leaf surfaces are covered with cream, pale tan or orange-tan hairs that become white or grey with age. The leaf stalks are between 2.5-3.7 mm long. The stipules (outgrowths at the base of the leaf stalks) are narrow, oval-shaped and between 1-1.5 mm long. **Flowers:** The flowering parts are stalkless and usually 2 flowered. The flower stalks are between 2-5 mm long. The pea-like flowers are deep mauve coloured and very distinctive. This species flowers in October through to December. **Fruit:** The fruits mature in January to March and consist of a pod that is broad in profile and approximately 10 mm long. The outer surfaces are covered in a golden-brown mat of hairs. The seeds are approximately 4mm long, 1.8 mm wide, and blackish (description from Thompson 2001). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from October to March. *Hovea longifolia* (*sensu* Curtis & Morris 1975) was split into *Hovea montana* and *Hovea tasmanica*.



### **Distribution and Habitat**

On the mainland this species occurs in eastern Victoria and south-eastern New South Wales. In Tasmania, *Hovea montana* is found in open heath, montane shrubbery and woodland in the central regions of the State (Thompson 2001).

### **Key Sites and Populations**

Key sites include Black Marsh, Borradaile Plains, Cradle Mountain Road, Liawenee Canal, Great Lake, Miena, Clarence Lagoon, Shannon River, Wilmot, Breona, Iris River, Junction Lake, Lake Ina, Navarre River, between Bronte and Derwent Bridge, Reynolds Neck and the Lake Ada region. There is also a pre 1950s record from Flinders Island.

### **Known Reserves**

Known from the Central Plateau Conservation Area, Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park, Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, Maggs Mountain Forest Reserve and the Walls of Jerusalem National Park.

### **Ecology and Management**

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

### **Conservation Status Assessment**

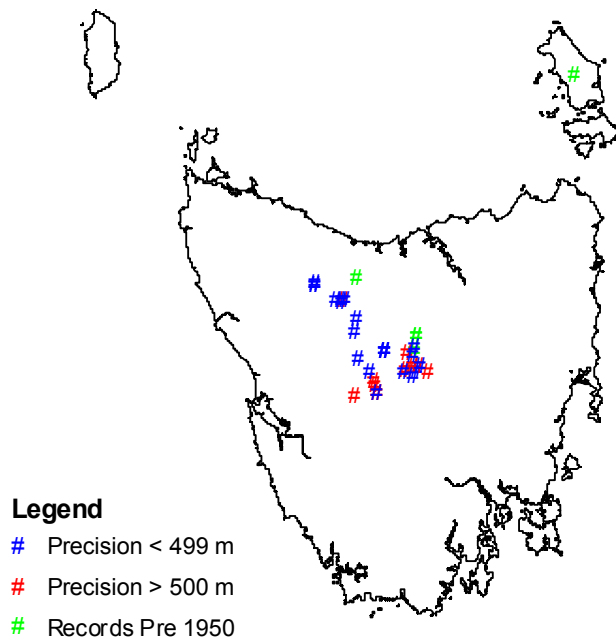
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Hovea montana*.

### **Further Information**

- Kirkpatrick, JB 1997, *Alpine Tasmania*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Thompson, IR 2001, 'Morphometric Analysis and Revision of Eastern Australian *Hovea* (Brongniartieae – Fabaceae)' *Australian Systematic Botany*, vol.14, pp.1-99.
- Walsh, NG & Entwistle, TJ eds 1996, *Flora of Victoria*, Volume 3, Inkata Press, Melbourne.
- Woolcock, D 1991, *A Field Guide to Native Peaflowers of Victoria and Southeastern Australia*, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, NSW.

## Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, 2003)



## 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Achilles, Arrowsmith, Borradaile, Breona, Bronte, Cathedral, Cethana, Du Cane, Ina, Lea, Leventhorpe, Liena, Loongana, Miena, Monpeelyata, Rowallan, Split Rock, Wihareja, Wilmot.

Date last modified: 15/08/03