

Isoetes elatior



Isoetes elatior. M. Garrett.

FAMILY: ISOETACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Isoetes elatior*,
F.Muell. ex A.Braun, *Linnaea* 25: 722 (1853)

COMMON NAME: Tall quillwort

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A submerged, aquatic fern ally. The roots are numerous and brown. The stem is underground, swollen, bulb-like and three-lobed. The leaves are densely clustered, limp, thin and grass-like, up to 60 cm long and between 2-3 mm wide with broad, papery bases. The dark brown spore capsules (sori) are embedded in the leaf bases. They are up to 6mm long and are not covered. **Confusing species:** This species is similar to *Isoetes drummondii* ssp. *drummondii* but can be distinguished by its fully submerged habit (*Isoetes drummondii* ssp. *drummondii* is only semi-submerged) and larger size (description from Duncan & Isaac 1986, Garrett 1996). **Together, *Isoetes elatior*, *Isoetes humilior* and *Isoetes gunnii* were previously known as *Isoetes lacustris* (sensu Rodway 1903).**

Distribution and Habitat

This species is endemic to Tasmania, occurring at low altitude with its roots in gravel or silt substrate in moderate to swiftly flowing waters. In calmer waters, it grows in mud or silt and is often found with *Isoetes muelleri*. It is found only in the South Esk, St Pauls, Prosser, Break O'Day and Apsley Rivers (Garrett 1996).

Key Sites and Populations

Known only from a few sites on the previously mentioned rivers.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Apsley Conservation Area, Dog Kennels Regional Reserve and the Freycinet National Park.

Ecology and Management

Isoetes elatior is a truly aquatic species. All plant parts are submerged all year round.

Conservation Status Assessment

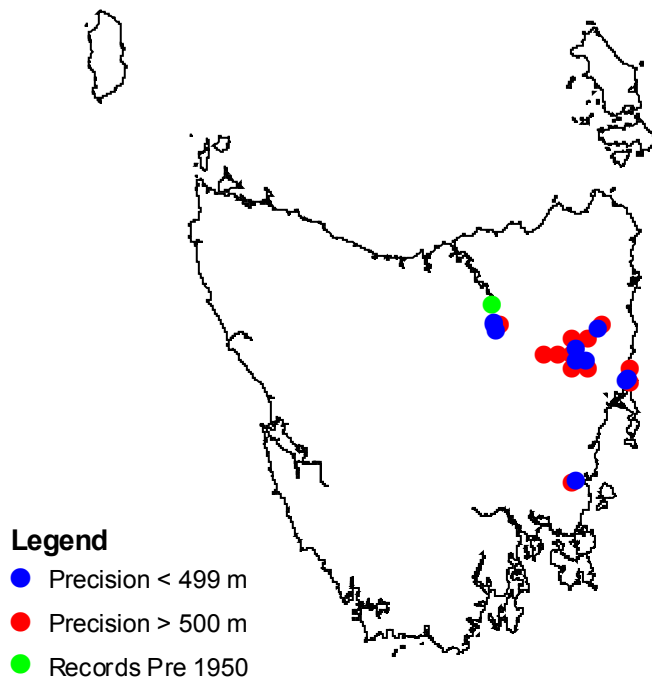
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Isoetes elatior*.

Further Information

- Duncan, BD & Isaac, G 1986, *Ferns and Allied Plants of Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
- Garrett, M 1996, *The ferns of Tasmania, Their Ecology and Distribution*, Tasmanian Forest Research Council, Hobart.
- Hughes, JMR & Davis, GL 1989, *Aquatic Plants of Tasmania*, University of Melbourne Press, Melbourne.
- Jones, DL & Clemesha, SC 1976, *Australian Ferns and Fern Allies with Notes on Their Cultivation*, Reed, London.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, May 2003).



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Bicheno, Hanleth, Lodi, Longford, Orford, Prospect, Rossarden, Roys, St Marys, St Pauls Dome.

Date last modified: 29/08/03