

Isoetes humilior



Isoetes humilior. M. Garrett.

FAMILY: ISOETACEAE

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

COMMON NAME: Veiled quillwort

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A small, perennial fern ally that resembles a densely clustered grass or sedge. This species may only grow to a few centimetres in height. The roots are numerous and dark. **Stem:** The stem is bulb-like with 2 elongated lobes. The leaves are dark green, densely clustered, erect and between 5-8 cm long and 1mm broad or less. The leaves are also cylindrical and spoon-shaped. The spore capsules (sori) are embedded in the leaf bases. They are solitary, circular or oval and up to 6mm long. The sori are completely protected by an opaque covering. Herbarium specimens have been collected in January and February. **Confusing species:** *Isoetes humilior* is very similar to *Isoetes gunnii*, however *Isoetes humilior* is smaller in all parts and has a membrane covering the spore capsules (description from Aston 1973, 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 and inhabits slow-moving sections of running water and still waters around the Central Highlands. *Isoetes humilior* frequently occurs with *Isoetes gunnii* and the two species may be intermingled within the same clump (Garrett 1996).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include the Central Plateau, River Ouse, Little Pine and Shannon Rivers, St Clair Lagoon, Lake Balmoral and Clarence Lagoon (Garrett 1996).

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park and the Central Plateau Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

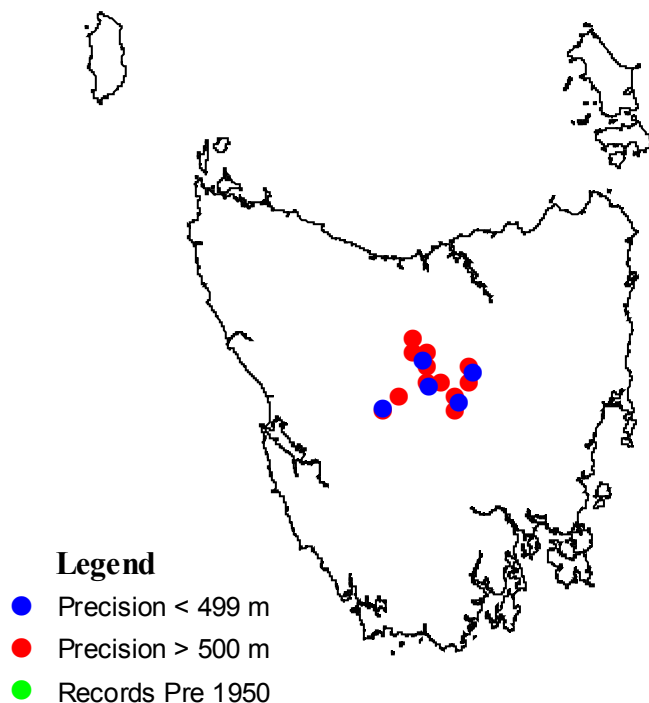
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Isoetes humilior*.

Further Information

- Aston, HI 1973, *Aquatic Plants of Australia*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
- 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.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Arthurs Lake, Bradys Lookout, Breona, Ina, Lake Mackenzie, Miena, Pillans, Rufus, Split Rock, Steppes, Wihareja.

Date last modified: 29/08/03