

Lasiopetalum micranthum



Lasiopetalum micranthum.
H&A Wapstra.

FAMILY: STERCULIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Lasiopetalum micranthum*
Hook.f., *Fl. Tasm.* 1: 51 (1855)

COMMON NAME: tasmanian velvetbush

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A low spreading shrub, up to 50 cm tall, with slender branches, which are covered with rust coloured hairs. **Leaves:** The leaves are short stalked, near oblong in shape and between 2-6 cm long, with distinctive impressed veins. The lower surface of the leaves is densely covered with star-shaped, rust coloured hairs and the margins bend back towards the underside of the leaf. **Flowers:** The flowers are small, star-shaped and red. Flowering is in spring. **Fruit:** The fruit is a hairy capsule up to 8 mm wide. When the fruit opens, there is one seed in each chamber (description from Curtis & Morris 1975, Barker & Johnson 1998).

Distribution and Habitat

Lasiopetalum micranthum is endemic to Tasmania, occurring on shallow, dry dolerite soils in dry sclerophyll forest in the east of the State between Swanport and the St Pauls River (Barker & Johnson 1998).

Key Sites and Populations

This species is mainly distributed along the Brushy River, Cygnet River and Swan River. It is also located in the Bluemans Creek State Reserve and on surrounding private properties. There are estimated to be 30 populations and 40 000 individuals in Tasmania (Barker & Johnson 1998).

Known Reserves

Reserved in Cygnet River Forest Reserve, Dry Creek East Nature Reserve, Eastern Tiers Forest Reserve, Swan River Forest Reserve and Wye River State Reserve.

Ecology and Management

Lasiopetalum micranthum may recruit from the soil seed-bank following disturbance, and in consequence the species is often found along roadsides and tracks. The species has the ability to resprout after fire, while studies have indicated that grazing may cause a decrease in seed production (Pyrke 1994). The majority of plants occur on private land, which may be subject to land clearance and agriculture development. These activities have been identified as a major threat to the species (TPLUC 1996).

Lasiopetalum micranthum is included in a multi-species recovery plan (Barker and Johnson 1998).

Conservation Status Assessment

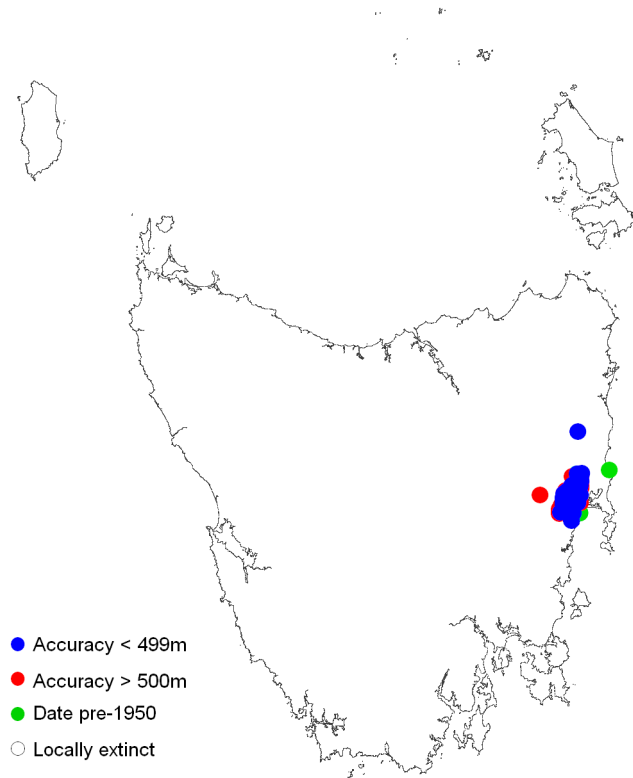
No immediate need for re-assessment.

Further Information

- Barker, PCJ & Johnson, KA 1998, *Recovery Plan – Selected Tasmanian Forest Associated Plants*, Forestry Tasmania, Hobart.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Pyrke, A 1994, *Soil Disturbance by Native Mammals and Germination and Establishment of Plant Species*, BSc.Hon.Thesis, University of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(Extracted from the Natural Values Atlas, March 2008)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Applawn, Bicheno, Colonels, Cranbrook, Fingal, Henry, Leake, Swansea.

Date last modified: 11/03/2008

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.