

Lepilaena australis



Lepilaena australis.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: ZANNICHELLIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Lepilaena australis*,
J.Drumm. ex Harv. in Hook., *J. Bot. Kew*
Gard. Misc. 7: 58 (1855)

COMMON NAME: southern watermat

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*)
presumed extinct

Description

A slender herb between 10–30 cm high. **Leaves:** The leaves are arranged alternately on the stem and are approximately 7 cm long and between 0.3–0.5 mm broad. They taper towards the tip and have edges that are minutely serrated. **Flowers:** The female and male flowers are separate on the one plant. They are solitary, but can appear to be in clusters. The stalk of female flowers up to 8 cm long. Flowering occurs from September to April. **Fruit:** The fruit is small, dry and leathery (achene) (description from Curtis & Morris 1994, Jessop *et al.* 1986).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia. In Tasmania, *Lepilaena australis* has been recorded from fresh and brackish water up to 0.5 m deep.

Key Sites and Populations

Known only from a single incomplete specimen collected by Leonard Rodway at Campbell Town in 1893 (Curtis & Morris 1994).

Known Reserves

This species is not currently known from any reserve.

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

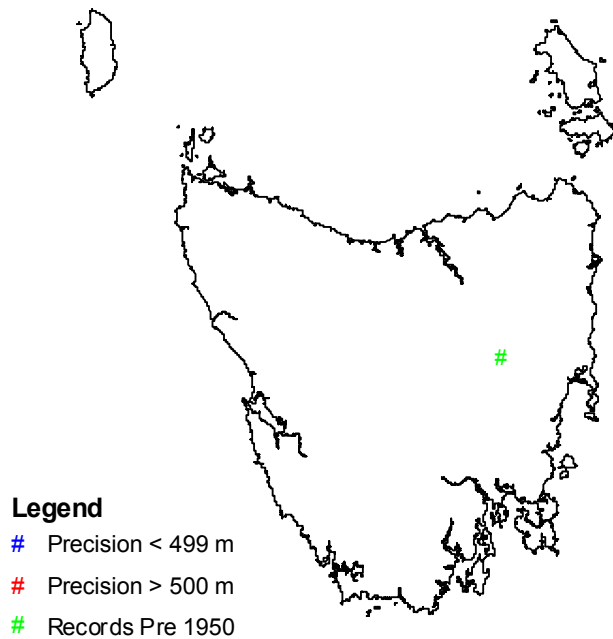
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Lepilaena australis*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Jessop, JP & Toelken, HR 1986, *Flora of South Australia, Part IV (Alismataceae to Orchidaceae)*, South Australian Printing Division, Adelaide.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, May 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Campbell Town.

Date last modified: 03/09/03