

# *Lepilaena marina*



*Lepilaena marina*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

**FAMILY:** ZANNICHELLIACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Lepilaena marina*,  
E.Robertson in Womersley, *Marine Benthic Fl.*  
*Sthn. Austral.* 1: 80 (1984)

**COMMON NAME:** Sea water mat

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

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

## Description

An underground stem forming (rhizomatous) annual herb. The rhizomes are between 0.6-0.75 mm in diameter. **Leaves:** The leaves are linear-shaped and the tips end in a narrow, short, hard point. The lower leaves and those associated with the male flowers are between 1-3 cm long and 0.3-0.5 mm wide. The leaves associated with the female flowers are approximately 3 mm long. The leaf sheaths are transparent and between 5-12 mm long. **Flowers:** The male and female flowers of this species are located on separate plants. The male flowers are arranged in dense, leafy shoots (between 3-10 cm tall) that are borne on short stalks. The female flowers are borne on slender, leafy shoots (5-25 cm tall) and frequently extend past the vegetative shoots. Flowering occurs from September to December. **Fruit:** The small, dry, leathery fruit (achene) is oblong-shaped, brown and approximately 1.5 mm long (description from Curtis & Morris 1994).

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia and Victoria. The Tasmanian distribution extends to sandy/muddy tidal flats and is associated with *Zostera muelleri* (eel grass), which is also a marine species. *Lepilaena marina* has been collected from Blackman Bay, the Swan River Estuary and Boomer Marsh on the East Coast of the State (Curtis & Morris 1994). The only available records are from Boomer Marsh.

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Blackman Bay, the Swan River Estuary and Boomer Marsh.

## Known Reserves

This species is not currently known from any reserve.

## Ecology and Management

*Lepilaena marina* is a marine aquatic species.

## Conservation Status Assessment

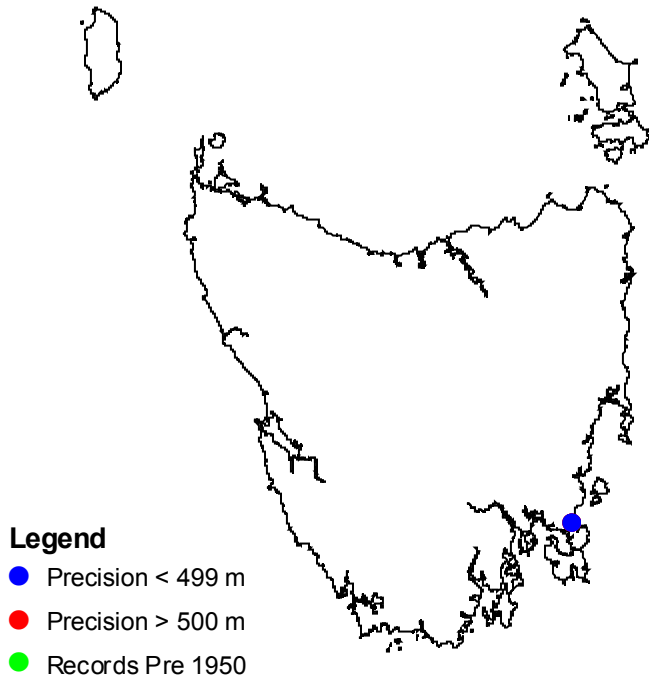
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Lepilaena marina*. *Lepilaena* species are difficult to identify, hence there may be other populations of this species that have been overlooked.

## Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.

## Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, May 2003)



## 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Dunalley.

Date last modified: 18/08/03

**Note: The only available records are from Boomer Marsh.**