

Lepilaena patentifolia



FAMILY: ZANNICHELLIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Lepilaena patentifolia*,
E.Robertson, *Fl. S.Austral.* 4: 1736 (1986)

COMMON NAME: Spreading water mat

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

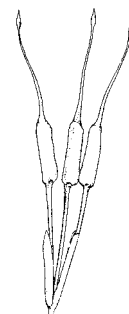
Lepilaena patentifolia.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

Description

A variable, annual or perennial herb with horizontal underground stems that are between 1-1.5 mm diameter. **Stems:** In inland brackish lagoons, the stems are often less than 20 cm high, slender and sparsely branched with small leaves. In coastal lagoons and creeks, the stems are up to 45 cm high, robust, heavily branched and leafy. **Leaves:** The leaves are held more or less at right angles to the plant. The leaf sheaths are between 4-7 mm long and the blades are flat, long and narrow. **Flowers:** The male flowers are usually together in groups of 2 and situated in the leaf axils (where the stem meets the leaf). The female flowers are solitary and also situated in the leaf axils. Flowering occurs from September to December. **Fruit:** The small, dry, leathery fruit is between 1.5-2.25 mm long and marked with small, wart like protrusions (description from Curtis & Morris 1994).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland, this species occurs in South Australia and Victoria. In Tasmania, *Lepilaena patentifolia* inhabits coastal lagoons, creeks, inlets and estuaries and brackish inland lagoons. Literature indicates that this species is found on King Island and around the Midlands, north-east, East Coast and south-west, however the only available record is from the south-west (Curtis & Morris 1994).



Lepilaena patentifolia fruit.
D. Morris.

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Moulting Lagoon and New River Lagoon in the south-west.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve and the Southwest National Park.

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

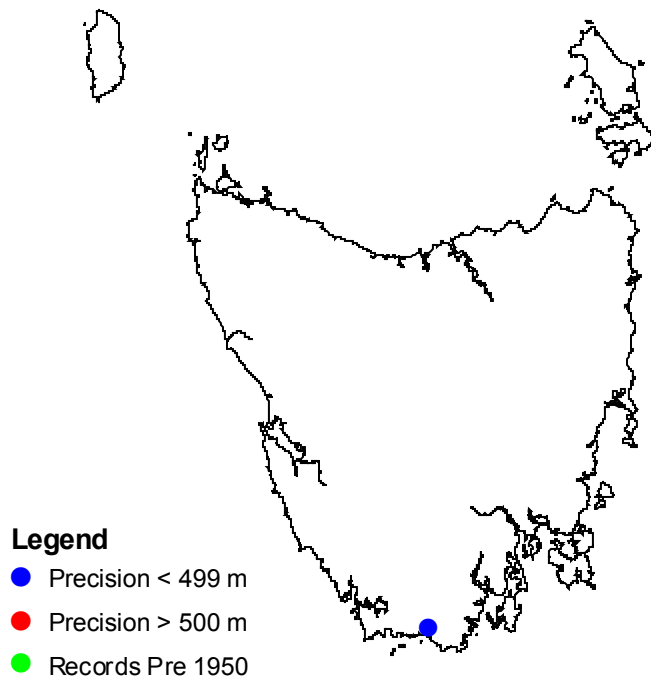
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Lepilaena patentifolia*. The distribution of this species requires clarification.

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

Precipitous.

Date last modified: 18/08/03

Note: The only available record is from the south-west