

Leucopogon virgatus var. *brevifolius*



Scanned specimen

FAMILY: EPACRIDACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Leucopogon virgatus* (Labill.) R.Br. var. *brevifolius* Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 4: 202 (1868)

COMMON NAME: shortleaf beardheath

COMMONWEALTH STATUS (EPBC Act): Not listed

TASMANIAN STATUS (TSP Act): rare

Description

Leucopogon virgatus var. *brevifolius* is an erect to decumbent shrub to 0.6 m high. Its branches and leaves may appear greyish due to a dense even cover of short erect hairs. The leaves are ovate, concave, sometimes slightly cordate at the base, up to 7 mm long and tapering to an acute point. Flowers are white (pink in bud), occurring in 3- to 4-flowered spikes at the ends of the branches or in the leaf axils towards the end of the branches. The corolla is 3 to 3.5 mm long, the five lobes equal to the tube or slightly longer, the inner surfaces densely bearded. Flowering occurs from September to November. The fruit is a drupe, spherical in shape and about 2 mm in diameter (description from Curtis (1963), Walsh & Entwisle (1996) and collection notes at the Tasmanian Herbarium). **Confusing species:** *Leucopogon virgatus* var. *virgatus* ... its leaves are usually glabrous, lance-shaped, mostly longer than 7 mm, with an acuminate, pungent apex (Walsh & Entwisle 1996). Intermediates between the two varieties have been recorded.

Distribution and Habitat

On mainland Australia *Leucopogon virgatus* var. *brevifolius* occurs in Victoria and possibly South Australia (Walsh & Entwisle 1996). In Tasmania the taxon's stronghold is the Northern Midlands, where it is generally associated with *Eucalyptus amygdalina* inland forest and woodland on Cainozoic deposits, a vegetation community listed as threatened on the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. Sites are flat to gently undulating, with deep well-drained recent sands; co-occurring eucalypts may include *Eucalyptus viminalis*, *Eucalyptus pauciflora* or *Eucalyptus ovata*, while the ground layer may be grassy, sedgey or heathy. [Outlying, somewhat anomalous, collections held at the Tasmanian Herbarium include Lindisfarne in 1948,

a granite ridge southeast of Rossarden in 1982, and a sandstone cliff at the eastern margins of Lake Dulverton in 2007 (where both varieties have been collected).]

Key Sites and Populations

Cleveland – Diprose Lagoon area, Powranna.

Known Reserves

Not known from any formal reserve. One site is on private land covered by a conservation covenant under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

Ecology and Management

Bees are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

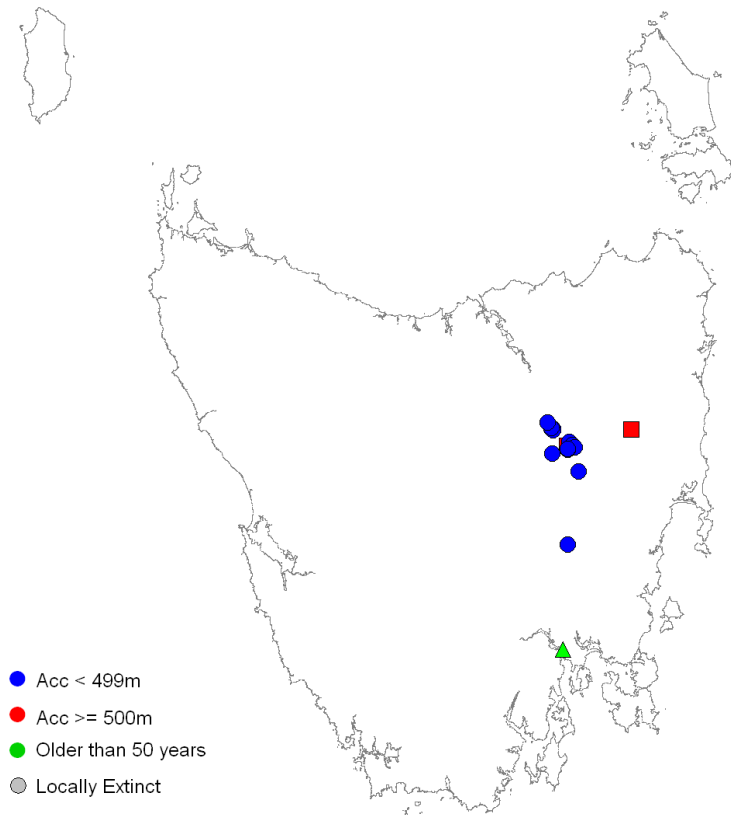
Surveys of recorded sites and potential habitat in the Midlands are required before a meaningful re-assessment of the species' conservation status can be made.

Further Information

- Curtis, W.M. (1963). *The Student's Flora of Tasmania. Part 2*. Government Printer, Tasmania.
- Walsh, N.G. & Entwisle, T.J. (1996). *Flora of Victoria, Volume 3*. Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Section records, September 2013)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Conara, Cleveland, Hobart, Jacobs, Nile, Oatlands, St Pauls Dome.

Date last modified: 1/10/2013

View

<http://www.dpipwe.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.