

# *Lotus australis*



**FAMILY:** FABACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Lotus australis*,  
Andrews, *Bot. Repos.* 10 t.624 (1811)

**COMMON NAME:** Austral trefoil

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

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

*Lotus australis*. P. Black.

## Description

An erect, perennial herb that grows up to 60 cm tall, blue-green in colour and covered with short hairs. **Leaves:** The leaves are composed of 5 leaflets, which are long, narrow and wedge-shaped. The upper 3 leaflets are 1-4 cm long, while the lower 2 are small and reduced. **Flowers:** The flowers are pea-like, between 14-20 mm long, white to pink in colour and borne in clusters of 3-8 on long stalks in the leaf axils. Flowering is from spring to early autumn. **Fruit:** The fruit is a straight pod between 3-5 cm long (description from Cunningham *et al.* 1992, Woolcock 1991). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from November to February.

## Distribution and Habitat

This species occurs in all the Australian States. In Tasmania, *Lotus australis* is found within *Poa* tussock grassland, low coastal shrubbery and on dunes around the State (Curtis & Morris 1975).

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Bluff Point (Studland Bay), Foster Islands, Pieman River, Rupert Point, Four Mile Beach, Granville Harbour, Georges Bay, near Deloraine, Boat Harbour, South Arm, Ulverstone, Flinders Island (Killiecrankie Bay), Low Head, Swan Island, Beer Barrel Beach (St. Helens Point), Port Dalrymple, Hellyer Beach (Port Latta area), Anniversary Bay (near Sisters Beach, Waterhouse Protected Area, Gardiner Point (Arthur River Estuary) and The Porches (near mouth of Douglas River).

## Known Reserves

Well reserved in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area, Denison Rivulet Conservation Area, Foster Islands Nature Reserve, Mount Field National Park, Narawntapu National Park, Pieman River State Reserve, Rocky Cape National Park, Southwest Conservation Area, St Helens Point Conservation Area, Tooms Lake Forest Reserve and the Waterhouse Conservation Area.

## Ecology and Management

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

## Conservation Status Assessment

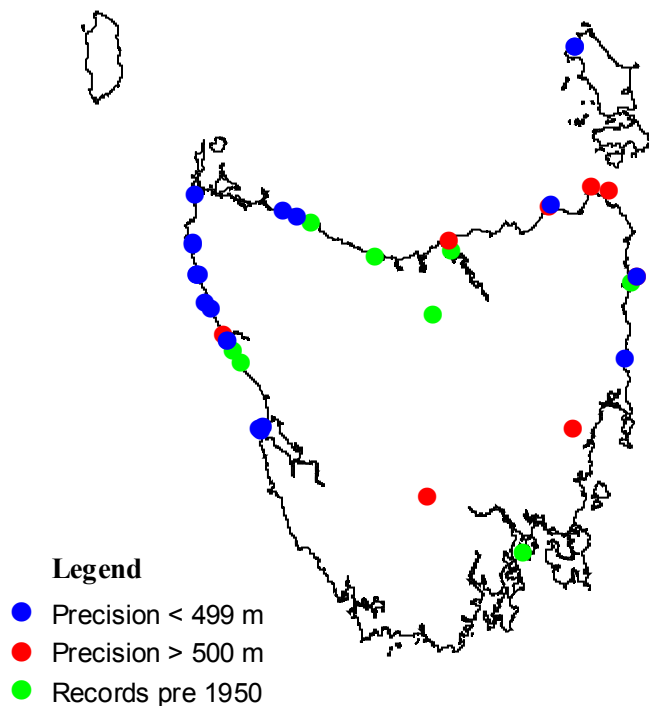
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Lotus australis*.

## Further Information

- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Barker, P, Brown, MJ, Harris, S & Mackie, R 1994, *The Reservation Status of Tasmanian Vascular Plant Communities*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust Incorporated, Hobart.
- Woolcock, D 1991, *A Field Guide to Native Peaflowers of Victoria and Southeastern Australia*, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, NSW.

## Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



## 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Ahrberg, Bell Bay, Blackmans Bay, Bluff, Deloraine, Dobson, Hardwicke, Johnsons Bay, Kelly, Kenneth Bay, Low Head, Lyme Regis, Palana, Rocky Cape, Seymour, St Helens, Studland, Temma, Tooms, Ulverstone, Waterhouse, Wynyard.

Date last modified: 18/08/03