

Myoporum parvifolium



Myoporum parvifolium.
Threatened Species Unit

FAMILY: MYOPORACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Myoporum parvifolium*,
R.Br., *Prodr.* 516 (1810)

COMMON NAME: Creeping myoporum

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) vulnerable

Description

A small shrub with tall branches (up to 60 cm long) that are erect or trailing loosely along the ground, but not rooting. The branches are reddish and have scattered glands bearing small blunt projections. **Leaves:** The leaves are stalkless or nearly so, narrow to spoon-shaped, blunt and between 6-30 mm long and 2.5 mm broad. They are thick and semi-succulent with prominent glands bearing small blunt projections. **Flowers:** The small flowers are star-shaped and pink or white with purple spots. They are situated in the axils (where stem meets leaf) of the plant and can be either solitary or in clusters of 2-3. The flowers are also borne on slender, gland-covered stalks that are shorter or about the same length as the leaves. The calyx (outermost whorl of floral parts) is approximately 3 mm long and deeply divided with lance shaped lobes that have glands. There are 4 stamens (male parts) and the anthers (pollen) holding structures protrude slightly. Flowering occurs between September to October. **Fruit:** The fruit is an edible, round purplish drupe that is between 4-6 mm in diameter (description from Curtis 1967, Grey *et al.* 2001). Herbarium specimens have been collected from November to February.



Myoporum parvifolium habitat.

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia and Victoria. In Tasmania, *Myoporum parvifolium* is restricted to Flinders Island where it is found in *Gahnia* sedgeland at Long Point and along the roadside fringing *Allocasuarina* forest near West End (S. Harris pers. comm.).

Key Sites and Populations

On Flinders Island, the Long Point population contains around 100 plants that occur in an area approximately 30 x 10 metres. The population at West End covers approximately 5 hectares with approximately 300 plants (S. Harris pers. comm).

Known Reserves

This species is not currently known from any reserve.

Ecology and Management

This species occurs in highly disturbed habitat. The plants are killed by fire, however soil-stored seed germinates post disturbance. The type of vegetation in which *Myoporum parvifolium* grows has an expected fire frequency of between 10-30 years (in *Gahnia* sedgeland) and 10-100 years (in *Allocasuarina verticillata* low forest). This species produces small, fleshy fruit, which may be dispersed by birds or stored in the soil by ants (S. Harris pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

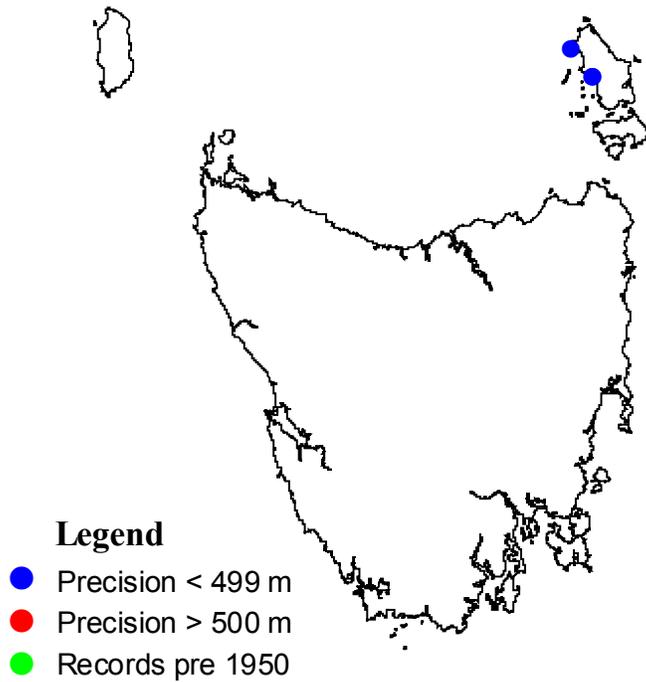
Myoporum parvifolium may require uplisting to the status of endangered on the Tasmanian Act. This is due to the small number of populations and individuals that are restricted to Flinders Island.

Further Information

- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 3, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Gray, M & Knight, J eds 2001, *Flora of Melbourne: A Guide to the Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area*, Hyland House Publishing, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, November 2002)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Leventhorpe, Tanner.

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