

Odixia achlaena



Odixia achlaena. G. Jordan

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Odixia achlaena*,
(D.I.Morris) Orchard, *Brunonia* 4: 194 (1981)

COMMON NAME: golden everlastingbush

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A stiff, erect and much branched shrub to 2 metres tall. The branches arise in false whorls from beneath the previous year's flower heads. The young branches, leaves and flower stalks are densely covered in white, short, soft matted hairs, which are underneath a sticky yellow substance. **Leaves:** The leaves are alternately arranged along the stem and up to 2.5 cm long. The edges of the leaves are strongly bent back towards the underside of the leaf, almost covering the densely hair undersurface. **Flowers:** The flowers are yellowish-white and found in numerous, very small, shortly stalked flower heads that are arranged in large flattened clusters at the ends of the upper branches. Each one of the flower heads is approximately 5 mm long and contains 4-5 small flowers. **Fruit:** The fruit is a dry, small leathery structure approximately 1.2 mm long and covered in curved, elongated pimple like protrusions that form a ring at one end of the seed (description from Leigh *et al.* 1984). Herbarium specimens have been collected through most of the year. **This species was previously known as *Ixodia achlaena*.**

Distribution and Habitat

This species is endemic to Tasmania and is locally abundant in the south-east near Kelleve. *Odixia achlaena* was initially discovered growing in *Eucalyptus* forest with *Eucalyptus cordata* (silver heart gum). It is common in dry sclerophyll forest around the area (Leigh *et al.* 1984, TPLUC 1996).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Kelleve Road, Weilangta Road, Corbetts Lookout, Franklins Road, Hospital Creek, Iles Tier, Gordons Sugarloaf, Jacob Hill, Prossers Sugarloaf, Sandspit River and Mt Walter.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Cape Bernier Nature Reserve, Hospital Creek Nature Reserve and the Sandspit River Forest Reserve.

Ecology and Management

This species is highly responsive to soil disturbance and fire (Ziegeler 2003). Fire stimulates recruitment by promoting germination of soil stored seed. The species can be abundant on quarry floors (Leaman 2004) benefiting from the disturbance and the removal of topsoil, reducing productivity at the site thereby resulting in a reduction of competition from other species (Kirkpatrick 2007). Adverse impacts include plantation establishment and also clearing for agriculture (TPLUC 1996).

Conservation Status Assessment

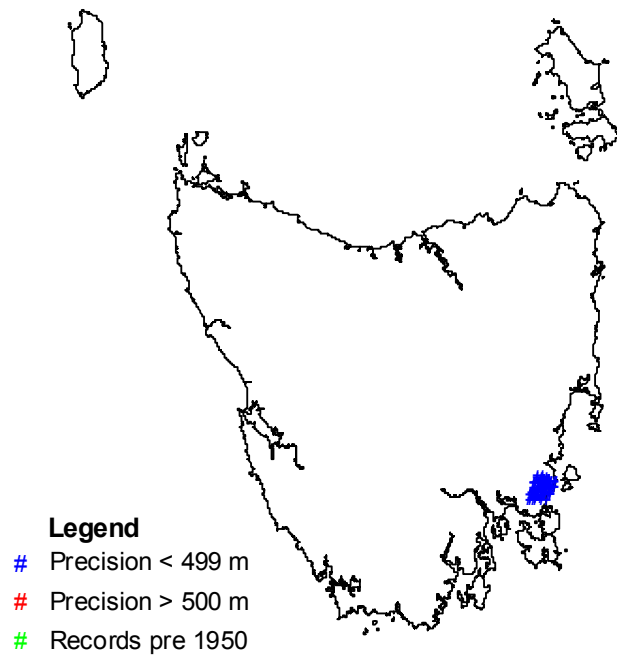
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Odixia achlaena*.

Further Information

- Leaman TC 2004, Conservation ecology of the rare Tasmanian shrub, *Odixia achlaena* (Asteraceae). BSc(Honours) Thesis, School of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania.
- Leigh J, Boden, R & Briggs, J 1984, *Extinct and Endangered Plants of Australia*, Macmillan, Melbourne.
- Kirkpatrick JB 2007, Collateral benefit: unconscious conservation of threatened plant species. *Australian Journal of Botany*, vol. 55, pp 221–224.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.
- Ziegeler, D 2003, *A Botanical Reconnaissance of Wielangta Hill Planning Block*, unpublished report to the Forest Practices Board, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Kellevie, Sandspit.

Date last modified: 25/05/2004