

Parietaria debilis



Parietaria debilis.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: URTICACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Parietaria debilis*,
Forst.f., *Fl. Ins. Austral. Prodr.* 73 (1786)

COMMON NAME: Pellitory

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A slender herb with weak slender branches, between 10-30 cm long. **Leaves:** The leaves are between 1-3 cm long, thin and sometimes succulent. They are situated on slender stalks that are up to 3 cm long. **Flowers:** The flowers are crowded and borne in the leaf axils (where the stem meets the leaf) in twin, 3-flowered stems. Flowering occurs from August to November (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is glossy, ovoid but flattened and approximately 1.5 mm long (description from Curtis 1967). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from August to March.

Distribution and Habitat

This coastal species is found throughout Temperate Australia and in New Zealand. In Tasmania, *Parietaria debilis* can be found growing around muttonbird rookeries, on cliffs/rocks in salt spray zone and on grazed pasture/grassland. It has also been recorded from sand dunes with other forbs. *Parietaria debilis* is found predominantly in northern Tasmania and on the islands of Bass Strait (Curtis 1967)

Key Sites and Populations

There are greater than 10 000 individuals of this species (S. Harris pers. comm).



Parietaria debilis. S. Harris.

Known Reserves

Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area, Double Sandy Point Conservation Area, Fletchers Hill West Forest Reserve, Kent Group National Park, Mount William National Park, Narawntapu National park, River Derwent Conservation Area, Rodondo Island Nature Reserve, Seal Rocks State Reserve, Sister Islands Conservation Area, Strzelecki National Park and Three Hummock Island State Reserve.

Ecology and Management

The absence of rabbits on many of the Bass Strait Islands has probably ensured the persistence of this plant (S. Harris pers. comm).

Conservation Status Assessment

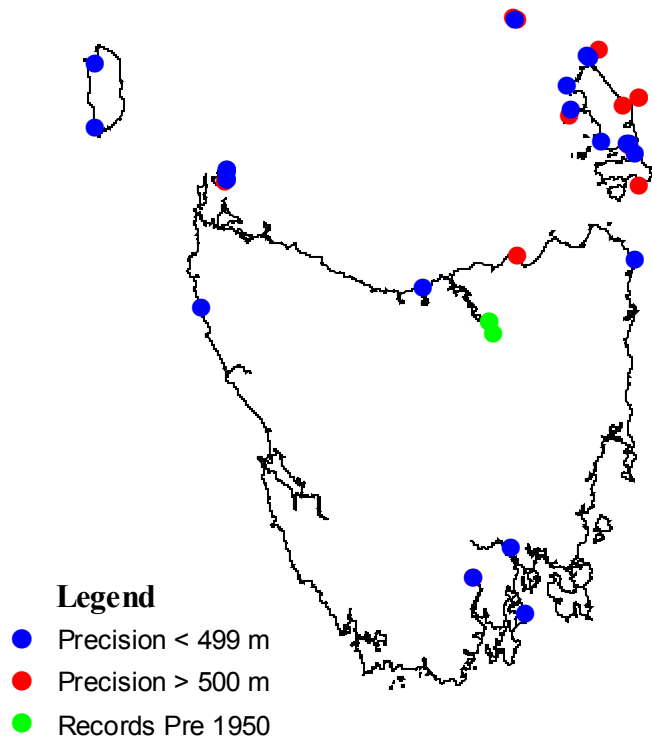
The conservation status of *Parietaria debilis* should be reassessed as it may qualify for delisting.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 3, 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.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Adamson, Bridport, Dilston, Eddystone, Fisher, Great Bay, Launceston, Loccota, Lonnvale, New Year, Passage, Patriarchs, Puncheon, Richmond, Rochon, Sister, Stokes, Tanner, Temma, Wybalenna.

Date last modified: 03/09/03