

# *Pentachondra ericifolia*



*Pentachondra ericifolia*.  
N. Lawrence.

**FAMILY:** EPACRIDACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Pentachondra ericifolia*,  
Hook.f., *Lond. J. Bot.* 6: 271 (1847)

**COMMON NAME:** Matted carpet heath

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

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

## Description

A small, woody shrub with semi-erect branches that grows between 15-60 cm tall.

**Leaves:** The leaves are crowded, erect and often closely pressed to the stem. They are between 3-6 mm long, stalkless or shortly stalked and concave with a hard blunt tip.

**Flowers:** The flowers are white, between 4-5 mm long and cylindrical. They are bearded on the inside and borne singly in the leaf axils (where the stem meets the leaf). Several flowers can be clumped together near the ends of the short branchlets.

**Fruit:** The fruit is fleshy and the stone separates into 5 or fewer nutlets (description from Curtis 1963). Herbarium specimens have been collected throughout the year.

## Distribution and Habitat

*Pentachondra ericifolia* is endemic to Tasmania and is often found in rocky sites within open alpine/dry sclerophyll woodland. It has also been recorded from heathland. The distribution of this species extends from the Central Highlands through the south-east and north-east (Curtis 1963).

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Dromedary, Marlborough, Derwent Bridge, Interlaken, Lyell Highway, Table Mountain, Quoin Mountain, east shore of Lake Crescent, Platform Peak, Arthurs Lake, Mt. Lloyd, Black Boy Plain, Clarence River, Castle Cary Forestry Reserve, Pelham Tier, Mt. Foster and Storeys Creek.

## Known Reserves

Castle Cary Regional Reserve, Mount Dromedary Forest Reserve, Mount Victoria Forest Reserve, St Pauls Regional Reserve, Table Mountain Conservation Area.



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## Ecology and Management

*Pentachondra ericifolia* is susceptible to infection from root rot (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) and is also sensitive to domestic grazing (TPLUC 1996).

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

## Conservation Status Assessment

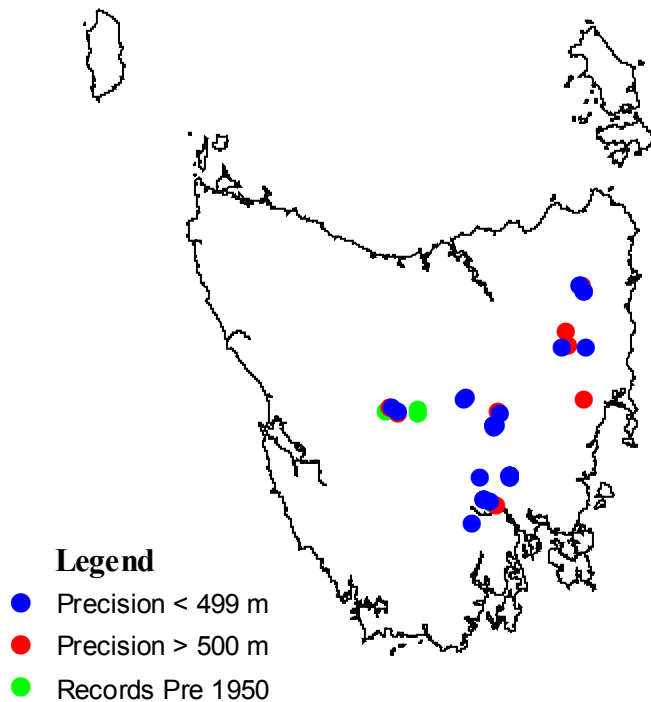
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Pentachondra ericifolia*.

## Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 2, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.

## Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



## 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Bains, Broadmarsh, Bronte, Elderslie, Hanleth, Interlaken, Leake, Lloyd, Mangana, New Norfolk, Rossarden, Rufus, Saddleback, St Pauls Dome, Table, Victoria, Wihareja.

Date last modified: 03/09/03