

Persicaria decipiens



Persicaria decipiens.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: POLYGONACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Persicaria decipiens*,
(R.Br.) K.L. Wilson, *Telopea* 3: 178 (1988)

COMMON NAME: Slender knotweed

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) vulnerable

Description

An annual or perennial herb with sparingly branched, slender stems that grow up to 60 cm long. The stems spread along the ground and root at the base then gradually slope upwards. **Leaves:** The leaves are very shortly stalked and are lance-shaped with long, pointed tips. They are broad and measure between 5-10 cm long and 1-3 cm. The leaf sometimes has hairs along the veins on the lower surface wide. The leaf margins are stiff, hairy, green and often have a black notch near the middle. This species has a distinctive characteristic of sheathing outgrowths at the base of the leaf stalk (stipules), which are thin, pale, green or pinkish and sparsely hairy. **Flowers:** The flowers are slender and situated at the end of the main and side branches. The whole flower is between 2.5-3.5 mm long with the tube greenish and shorter than the lobes, which are pale to deep pink and sometimes white. Flowering is predominantly from December to April (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is approximately 3 mm long, solidly triangular, dark brown and shining (description from Curtis 1967). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from November to May. **This species was previously known as *Polygonum decipiens*.**

Distribution and Habitat

This species is found all throughout the Australian mainland and New Zealand. In Tasmania, *Persicaria decipiens* is local on the banks of rivers and streams, most frequent in the north of the State (Curtis 1967).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include west of Ambleside near Devonport and the Cataract Gorge near Launceston.

Known Reserves

Known from the Dial Range Forest Reserve and the South Esk River Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

There is currently no information available regarding the ecology and management of this species.

Conservation Status Assessment

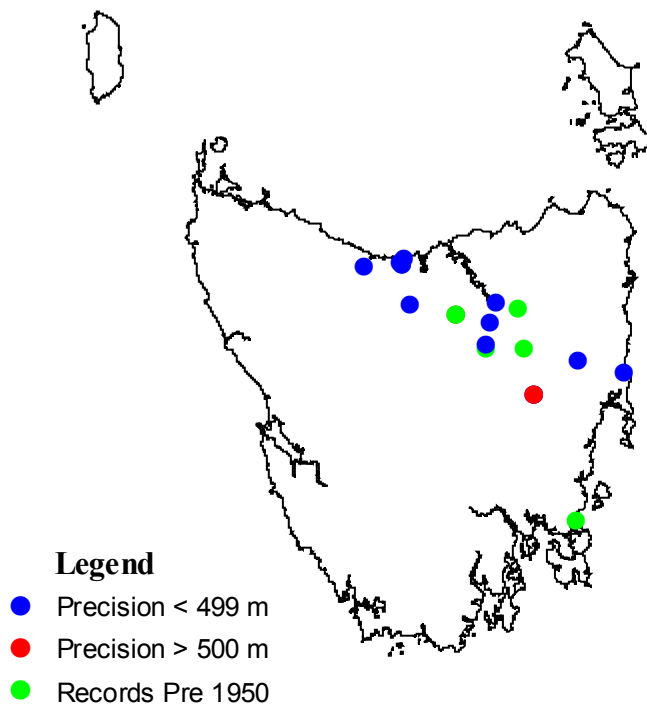
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Persicaria decipiens*.

Further Information

- 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, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Bicheno, Blessington, Cleveland, Cressy, Delmont, Devonport, Dunalley, Gog, Kindred, Latrobe, Launceston, Longford, Ross, St Pauls Dome, Westbury.

Date last modified: 03/09/03