

Phyllangium distylis



Image by Richard Schahinger

FAMILY: LOGANIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Phyllangium distylis*
(F.Muell.) Dunlop, *Fl. Australia* 28: 315
(1996)

COMMON NAME: Tiny mitrewort

COMMONWEALTH STATUS (EPBC Act):
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS (TSP Act): rare

Description

Annual herb, often aquatic, erect, glabrous except for scattered hairs on the adaxial surface of the involucre; terrestrial form to c. 5 cm high, aquatic form to c. 15 cm high. Leaves linear to very narrowly ovate, 2.5 to 12 mm long, 0.2 to 1.2 mm wide (in aquatic forms filiform and to 20 mm long). Inflorescence of axillary and terminal solitary flowers; peduncles to 32 mm long; calyx 2-lobed, obscurely 6-veined, tube 1.5 to 3 mm long, lobes 0.4 to 1.1 mm long; corolla white, 1.4 to 1.7 mm long, lobes c. half as long as tube; styles separate. Capsules 2 to 2.5 mm long; seeds brown, reticulate (description from Curtis 1963 and Conn 1999). Flowering: October to December.

Phyllangium distylis has been known previously as *Mitrasacme distylis* (Baker & Duretto 2011). The common name of mitrewort alludes to the resemblance of the calyx to a bishop's mitre (see above).

Confusing species: *Phyllangium divergens* has styles that are joined in the upper part, a longer corolla (2.5 to 5.4 mm) and an 8 to 9-veined calyx (Conn 1999).

Distribution and Habitat

On mainland Australia *Phyllangium distylis* occurs in South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia (Conn 1999). In Tasmania the species occurs near the coast in the north and northeast of the State, with outlying populations on King Island and the Midlands. The species may be locally abundant in its preferred habitat, which includes sandy humic heaths and open shrublands, muddy soaks and the margins of ephemeral wetlands.

Key Sites and Populations

Low Head, Bridport, Stony Head, Waterhouse, Cape Naturaliste (northeast), Killiecrankie Bay and South Patriarch (Flinders Island), Powranna and Smiths Lagoon (Midlands), Counsel Hill and Lavinia Plains (King Island).



Phyllangium distylis: habitat in the Midlands (images by Richard Schahinger)

Known Reserves

Counsel Hill Conservation Area, Killiecrankie Nature Recreation Area, Lavinia State Reserve, Mount William National Park, Powranna Nature Reserve, Sellars Lagoon Game Reserve, Waterhouse Conservation Area.

The species also occurs in significant numbers at and near Smiths Lagoon (Midlands) on private land covered by a conservation covenant under the *Tasmanian Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

Ecology and Management

As an annual species, the maintenance of populations depends upon the existence of a soil seedbank. Germination and growth is likely to be reliant on the timing and intensity of autumn and winter rains, as well as the availability of bare ground, with the length of flowering dependent upon conditions in spring and early summer.

Conservation Status Assessment

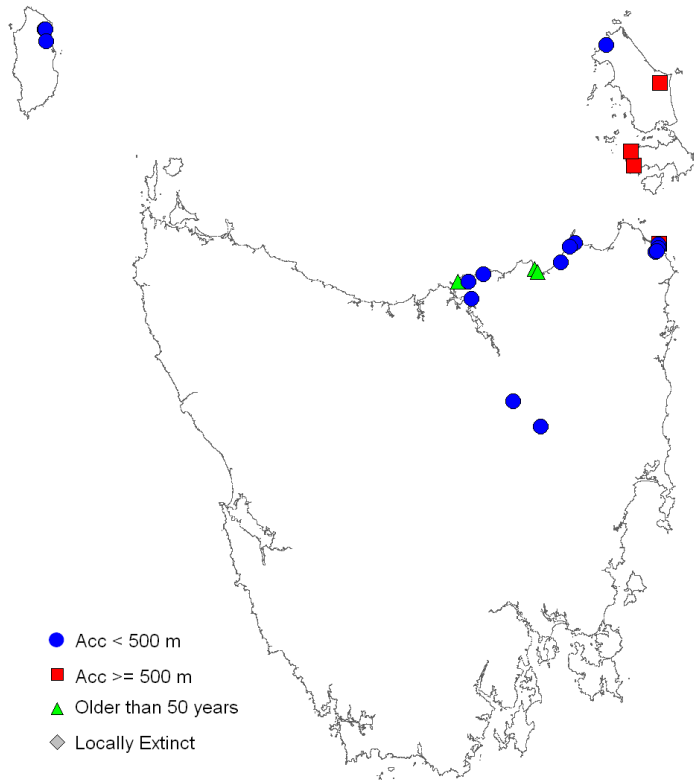
Surveys to determine the status of recorded sites in the State's north and northeast are required before a meaningful reassessment of the species' conservation status can be undertaken.

Further Information

- Baker, M.L. & Duretto, M.F. (2011). *A Census of the Vascular Plants of Tasmania and Index to the Student's Flora of Tasmania and Flora of Tasmania Online*. Tasmanian Herbarium, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart.
- Curtis, W.M. (1967). *The Student's Flora of Tasmania, Part 3*. Government Printer, Tasmania.
- Conn, B.J. (1999). *Loganiaceae*. In *Flora of Victoria, Volume 4* (Eds N.G. Walsh & T. Entwisle), Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Section records, December 2011)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Anderson, Barretts, Bell Bay, Bridport, Cleveland, Conara, Cressy, Egg Lagoon, Low Head, Naturaliste, Oxberry, Palana, Patriarchs, Saltwater, Waterhouse, Weymouth.

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View

<http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

Contact details

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Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.