

# *Phyllangium divergens*



Image by Richard Schahinger

**FAMILY:** LOGANIACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Phyllangium divergens* (Hook.f.) Dunlop, *Fl. Australia* 28:315 (1996)

**COMMON NAME:** Wiry mitrewort

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

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

## Description

Annual, erect herb to about 15 cm high; branches weak, terete, glabrous. Leaves elliptic, narrowly elliptic to narrowly obovate, 4 to 10 mm long, 0.8 to 3 mm wide, margins flat, apex acute. Flowers umbellate in upper axils, few to many flowered; peduncles to 50 mm long; calyx 2-lobed, 8 or 9-veined, tube 2 to 3.5 mm long, lobes almost as long as the tube; corolla white, 2.5 to 5.4 mm long, lobes half as long to slightly longer than tube; styles joined in upper part. Capsules 2 to 4 mm long; seeds brown or grey, finely reticulate (description from Curtis 1963 and Conn 1999). Flowering: October to November.

*Phyllangium divergens* has been known previously as *Mitrasacme divergens* and *Mitrasacme paradoxa* (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 distylis* has separate styles, a shorter corolla (1.4 to 1.7 mm long) and a calyx that is obscurely 6-veined (Conn 1999).

## Distribution and Habitat

On mainland Australia *Phyllangium divergens* occurs in South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia (Conn 1999). In Tasmania the species has a widespread distribution, occurring in mostly near-coastal situations where it grows on rock plates on a variety of substrates.

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include the Arthur-Pieman and East Cloudy Head.

## Known Reserves

Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area, Boobyalla Conservation Area, Cameron Regional Reserve, Dans Hill Conservation Area, Granite Point Conservation Area, Hawley Nature Reserve, Humbug Point Nature Recreation Area, Mount William National Park, Narawntapu National Park, Rocka Rivulet Nature Reserve, Safety Cove State

Reserve, South Bruny National Park, Sundown Point State Reserve, Waterhouse Conservation Area, West Point State Reserve.



*Phyllangium divergens*: habitat in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area  
(image by Richard Schahinger)

## Ecology and Management

As an annual species, the maintenance of populations is dependent 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

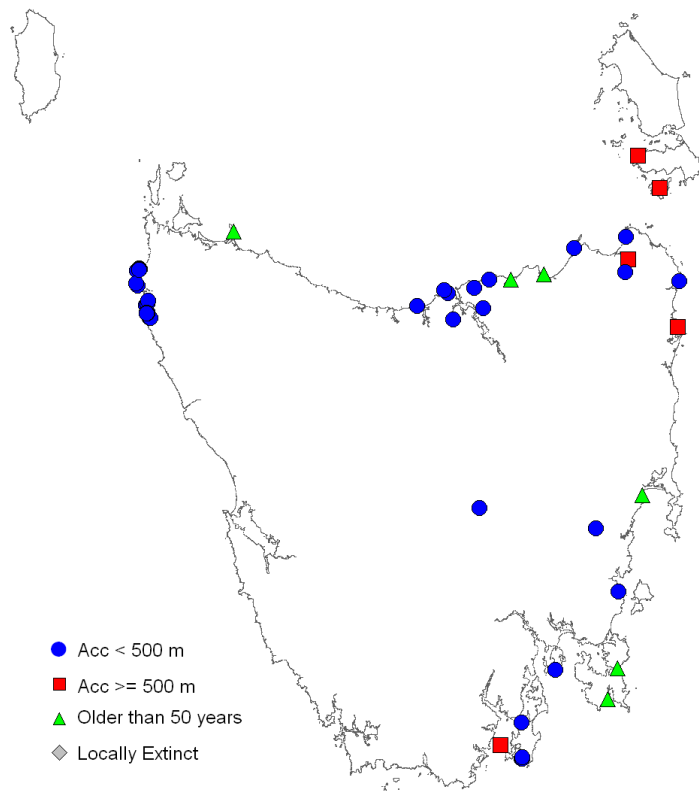
*Phyllangium divergens* has been recorded at a number of new locations since it was listed as vulnerable on the TSP Act in 1995, ranging from the Arthur-Pieman in the northwest to East Cloudy Head in the far south; eight of the new sites are within formal reserves. A re-assessment of the species' conservation status is warranted, though in the first instance surveys are required to determine the status of recorded sites in the State's north and northeast.

## 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.
- Conn, B.J. (1999). *Loganiaceae*. In *Flora of Victoria, Volume 4* (Eds N.G. Walsh & T. Entwisle), Inkata Press, Melbourne.
- Curtis, W.M. (1967). *The Student's Flora of Tasmania, Part 3*. Government Printer, Tasmania.

## Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Section records, December 2011)



### 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Anderson, Ansons Bay, Beaconsfield, Bell Bay, Binalong, Blackmans Bay, Bluff, Bridport, Cloudy, Devonport, Dover, Greens Beach, Hermitage, Low Head, Lyme Regis, Marrawah, Monarch, Musselroe, Orford, Partridge, Preservation, Raoul, Royalty, Stanley, Sundown, Swansea, Taranna, Temma, Waterhouse, Weymouth

Date last modified: 19/03/2012

### View

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

### Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 6233 6556; fax (03) 6233 3477.

### Permit

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