

Pilularia novae-hollandiae



Pilularia novae-hollandiae. M. Garrett.

FAMILY: MARSILEACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Pilularia novae-hollandiae*, A.Braun, *Monatsber. Konigl. Preuss. Akad. Wiss. Berlin* 1963: 435 (1864)

COMMON NAME: Austral pillwort

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A true fern with grass-like fronds. The horizontal stem is fine, branched, smooth and green. The leaves (fronds) are scattered along the underground stem, often in clusters of 2 or 3, tapering towards tip. They are deep green in colour, slender and between 2-7 cm long. The young fronds have coiled tips. The spore clusters (sori) are woody and found at the frond base. They are shortly stalked and usually bent downwards and often buried. The sori are also spherical, between 2-4 mm diameter and moderately hairy. Herbarium specimens have been collected from November to March.

Confusing species: Distinguishing characteristics of this species are the young coiled fronds, the small, pill-like spore containers and the dense mat formed by older plants (description from Duncan & Isaac 1986, Walsh & Entwisle 1996). **This species was previously known as *Pilularia globulifera* (*sensu* Rodway 1903).**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland *Pilularia novae-hollandiae* occurs in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia. This aquatic or semi-aquatic plant can be found growing in the mud or silt of shallow rivers and on the seasonally inundated margins of creeks and rivers. It is often hidden among grasses and sedges in damp mud, bogs and swamps in central/northern Tasmania (Duncan & Isaac 1986, Garrett 1996, Walsh & Entwisle 1996).

Key Sites and Populations

Populations are known to occur at Little Pine River, Nive River, Lake St Clair and Wihareja Lagoon (Garrett 1996).

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Central Plateau Conservation Area, Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park and the Lake Leake Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

Pilularia novae-hollandiae freely establishes itself in man-made impoundments such as Meadowbank Lake, Woodward's Canal and in dams and drainage lines in the Midlands. Those plants which seem to be submerged for the entire year are evergreen and have never been recorded to be fertile, while those subjected to seasonal drought or stress are deciduous, producing many spore containers (Garrett 1996).

Conservation Status Assessment

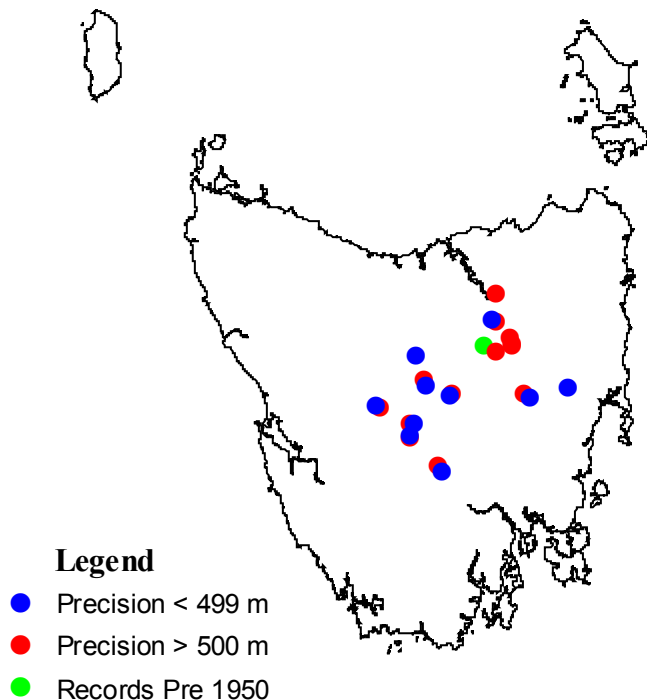
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Pilularia novae-hollandiae*.

Further Information

- Duncan, BD & Isaac, G 1986, *Ferns and Allied Plants of Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
- Garrett, M 1996, *The ferns of Tasmania, Their Ecology and Distribution*, Tasmanian Forest Research Council, Hobart.
- Walsh, NG & Entwistle, TJ eds 1994, *Flora of Victoria*, Volume 2, Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Cleveland, D'Arcys, Delmont, Ellinthorp, Launceston, Leake, Longford, Miena, Nile, Ouse, Pillans, Rufus, Tarraleah, Wihareja.

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