

Pimelea curviflora var. *gracilis*



Pimelea curviflora var. *gracilis*.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: THYMELAEACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Pimelea curviflora* var. *gracilis*, R.Br. Threlfall, *Fl. S. Austral.* 4: 2147 (1986)

COMMON NAME: Slender curved rice flower

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A slender shrub that is much branched from the base with wiry branches that are erect or sloping upwards to 30-100 cm tall. The younger parts are covered in hairs that are pressed together. **Leaves:** The leaves are arranged alternately on the vegetative stems, where they are usually found near base, those on the flowering branches are arranged oppositely. The leaves are very shortly stalked and narrow or with the top of the leaf broader than the base. The surfaces are covered in hairs. **Flowers:** The inflorescence consists of heads with a few or many flowers at the ends of the branches. There are 2 to 4 leaf-like structures surrounding the inflorescence, which are shorter than the leaves. The flowers contain both sexes (hermaphrodite) or have no functional male parts (pistillate). Both these flower types can be in the same head of flowers. The hermaphrodite flowers have a tube that is between 5-9 mm long and is longer than flower bracts and very slender, sometimes curved. The tube and petals are yellow with scattered hairs. Flowering is from September to February (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is dry. **Confusing species:** Distinguished from *Pimelea curviflora* var. *sericea* by having leaves with various shades of colour (description from Curtis 1967, Harris *et al.* 2001). Herbarium specimens have been collected from November to March.

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania, *Pimelea curviflora* var. *gracilis* predominantly occurs in the north of the State in wet sclerophyll forest (Curtis 1967, TPLUC 1996).

Key Sites and Populations

Key populations include records from Deloraine, Ellendale, St. Pauls and Elizabeth Town. The species is also known from Wayatinah.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Warrawee Forest Reserve and the Wayatinah Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

Disturbance such as forest and agricultural clearing and farming are known to have adverse impacts. The species persists regardless of disturbance by fire and general grazing (TPLUC 1996). A lack of recent records for some populations is suggestive of a significant decline in the distribution of the species.

Butterflies and long-tongued flies are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

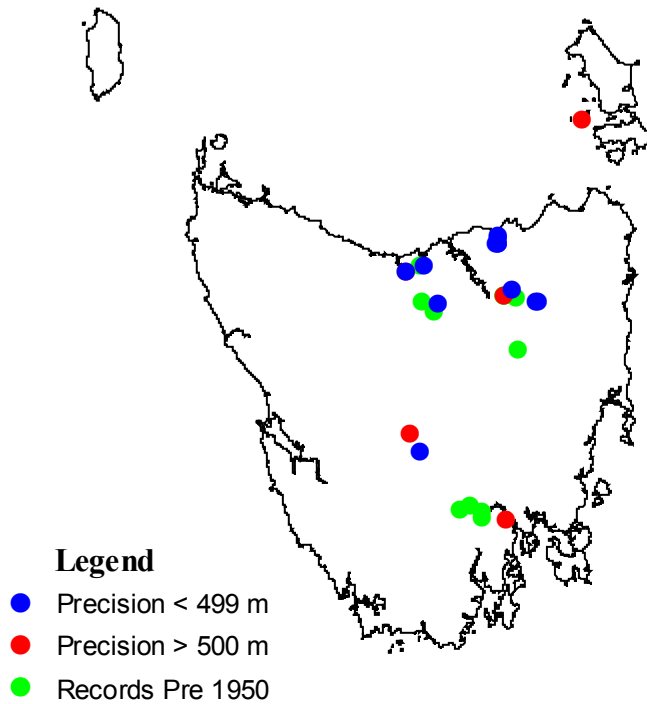
The taxonomy of this species remains confused. In the 2002 census, *Pimelea curviflora* var. *gracilis* and *Pimelea curviflora* var. *sericea* have been merged into *Pimelea curviflora*. However, the Threatened Species Unit will treat these entities separately until the taxonomic status is clarified.

Further Information

- Corrick, MG & Fuhrer, B 2000, *Wildflowers of Victoria*, Blooming Books, Victoria.
- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 3, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Eddy, D, Mallinson, D, Rehwinkel, R & Sharp S 1998, *Grassland Flora: A Field Guide for the Southern Tablelands (NSW & ACT)*, Environment ACT, Australia.
- Harris, S, Buchanan, A & Connolly, A 2001, *One Hundred Islands: The Flora of the Outer Furneaux*, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, 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

Badger, Cleveland, Collinsvale, Deloraine, Giblin, Harford, Hobart, Latrobe, Launceston, New Norfolk, Nunamara, Railton, Strickland, Tarraleah, Uxbridge, Weymouth.

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