

Planocarpa sulcata



Planocarpa sulcata.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: EPACRIDACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Planocarpa sulcata*,
(Mihaich) Weiller, *Aust. Syst. Bot.* 9(4): 516
(1996)

COMMON NAME: Furrowed cheeseberry

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC
Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A grey-green, low, compact shrub with branches sloping upwards to 40 cm tall. **Stems:** The stems are grey-brown and hairless. The branchlets are red-brown in colour and hairy. **Leaves:** The leaves are close to erect, spreading, oblong to oval-shaped and between 8-11 mm long and 2-3 mm wide. The leaf tips taper to a point in younger specimens and are blunt, thin, dry and transparent in the older leaves. The leaf margins are slightly bent backwards towards the underside of the leaf. The upper leaf surfaces are green, shiny and marked with 1-3 grooves. The lower leaf surfaces are a matt bluish-green colour with 3-5 veins and thick, sculptured hairs. **Flowers:** The flowers are creamy-white and usually solitary (sometimes 2 together). The flowers are also thick, cylindrical in shape and hairy on the inside, but not towards the ends (between 2.5-2.7 mm long). **Fruit:** The fruit is fleshy, red, smooth and shiny. It is between 2-3 mm high and 5-7 mm wide. Most herbarium specimens have been collected from October to March. **Confusing Species:** This species is very similar to *Planocarpa petiolaris* and is distinguished by differences in the leaf size and the pattern of hairiness on the inside of the flowers (description from Kirkpatrick 1997, Weiller 1996). **This species was previously known *Cyathodes sulcata*.**

Distribution and Habitat

Planocarpa sulcata is endemic to Tasmania and is found growing in exposed alpine, coniferous and deciduous heath on shallow soils in the western mountains at altitudes above 950 metres (Kirkpatrick 1997, Weiller 1996).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Mt. Read, Marions Lookout (Cradle Mountain area), Pine Lake on Lake Highway (Central Plateau), Baron Pass on Frenchmans Cap, Mt Murchison, Great Dome, Tyndall Range, Mt Wright, Hamilton Range, Mt Humbolt, Algonkian Mountain and the summit of Clear Hill.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park, Franklin-Gordon National Park, Great Western Tiers Conservation Area and the Tyndall Regional Reserve.

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

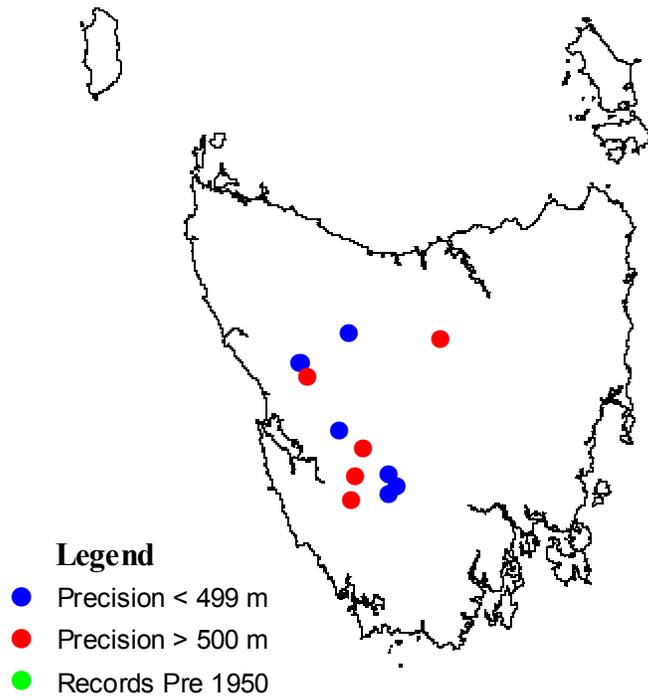
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Planocarpa sulcata*. This species may be poorly recorded as a result of its occurrence in remote areas.

Further Information

- Kirkpatrick, JB 1997, *Alpine Tasmania*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Weiller, CM 1996, 'Planocarpa (Epacridaceae) a New generic Name', *Australian Systematic Botany*, Vol.9, pp.509-519.
- Weiller, CM 1996, 'Reassessment of *Cyathodes* (Epacridaceae)', *Australian Systematic Botany*, Vol.9, pp.491-507.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Algonkian, Cradle, Dundas, Gordonvale, Lancelot, Olegas, Quamby Bluff, Tiger, Tyndall, Vera.

Date last modified: 03/09/03