

Plantago glacialis



Plantago glacialis.
Plant Science Department.
University of Tasmania.

FAMILY: PLANTAGINACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Plantago glacialis*,
B.G.Briggs, Carolin & Pulley, *Contr. N.S.W.*
Natl. Herb. 4:395 (1973)

COMMON NAME: Small star plantain

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A stout perennial herb that forms flat mats. Golden-brown hairs can be found in the leaf axils (where the stem meets the leaf). **Leaves:** The leaves are stalked and spread from the base of the plant (between 0.8-2.5 cm long). They are narrow lance-shaped and gradually taper into rounded tips. The leaf bases are narrowed into wide flat stalks that are shorter than the leaves. The leaf margins are usually whole or sometimes angled. The leaves are also flat, thick and hairless (young leaves with a few long, erect hairs on the upper leaf surface). **Flowers:** There are 1-4 (greenish) flowers arranged in a head at the end of a flowering stem. **Fruit:** The fruit is a capsule (description from Curtis 1967, Kirkpatrick 1997). Herbarium specimens have been collected in February and April. **This species was previously known as *Plantago muelleri* (sensu W.M. Curtis 1967).**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in New South Wales and Victoria. In Tasmania, *Plantago glacialis* is found in short alpine herbfields, associated with snow patches in the central and western mountains (Kirkpatrick 1997).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Goulds Sugarloaf, Mt. Geryon, Mt. Field and Mt. Rufus.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, Mount Field National Park and the Steppes State Reserve.

Ecology and Management

Wind is the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).



Plantago glacialis.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

Conservation Status Assessment

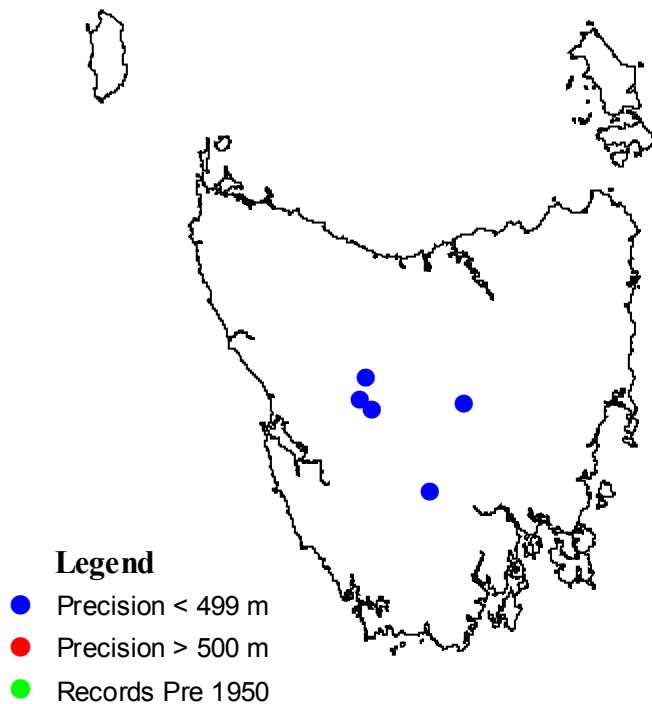
This species may be poorly recorded as a result of its occurrence in remote areas. There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Plantago glacialis*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 3, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1997, *Alpine Tasmania*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Dobson, Du Cane, Goulds, Rufus, Steppes.

Date last modified: 03/09/03