

Prostanthera rotundifolia



Prostanthera rotundifolia.
H & A Wapstra.

FAMILY: LAMIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Prostanthera rotundifolia*,
R.Br., *Prodr.* 509 (1810)

COMMON NAME: Roundleaf mint bush

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not
Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) vulnerable

Description

A much branched, woody shrub up to 2 metres. The branches have a covering of hair that gives them a white appearance. **Leaves:** The leaves are dull green, round or fan shaped, between 4-10 mm long with a stalk that is nearly as long as the blade. **Flowers:** The flowers are purple to lilac and between 6-8 mm long. The petals are joined into a cup-shaped corolla that is strongly aromatic. Flowering occurs from September to October. **Fruit:** The fruit consists of 4 nutlets (description from Cameron 1986).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania, *Prostanthera rotundifolia* occurs in the north and east of the State, along riverbanks and on rocky hillsides (Curtis 1967).

Key Sites and Populations

There is estimated to be 12 populations in Tasmania with greater than 2000 individuals in total (TPLUC 1996).

Known Reserves

This species is found in the Cataract Gorge Council Reserve, German Town Forest Reserve, Lefroy Forest Reserve and in the Trevallyn State Recreation Area.

Ecology and Management

Prostanthera species are generally referred to as 'mint bushes' because of the aromatic foliage of many species. They prefer well drained, moist conditions and are not as sensitive as some other Australian plants to phosphorus. Propagation is easy from cuttings but seed can be slow to germinate. This species is predominantly insect pollinated (SGAP 2002).

Conservation Status Assessment

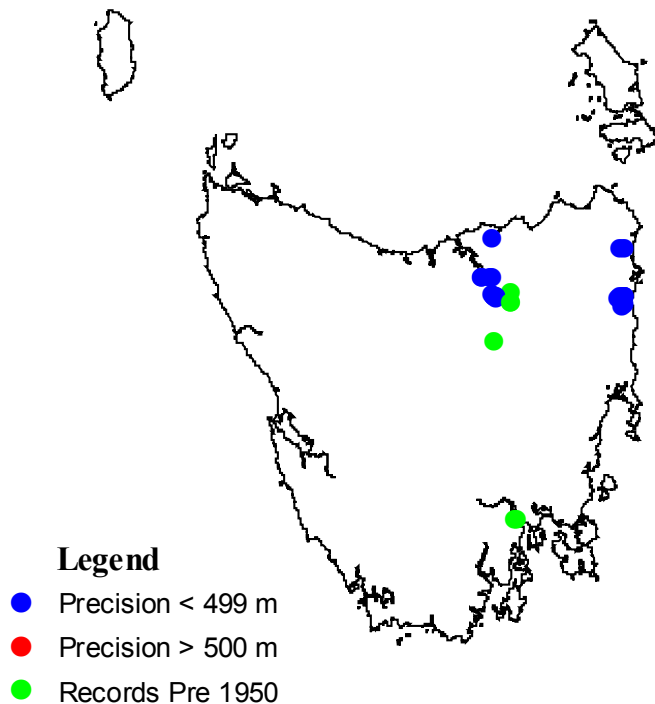
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Prostanthera rotundifolia*.

Further Information

- Cameron, M 1986, *Guide to the flowers and plants of Tasmania*, Launceston Field Naturalists Club, Reed Books, Sydney.
- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 3, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.
- Society for Growing Australian Plants 2002, *Prostanthera rotundifolia*, <http://farrer.csu.edu.au/ASGAP/gall5a.html>, 19/09/02.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Beumaris, Brilliant, Delmont, Dilston, Dublin Town, Exeter, Hobart, Launceston, Prospect, Spurs Rivulet, Weymouth.

Date last modified: 03/09/03