

Pultenaea mollis



Pultenaea mollis.
R. Schahinger.

FAMILY: FABACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Pultenaea mollis*, Lindl.
in T.Mitch., *Three Exped. Australia* 2: 258
(1838)

COMMON NAME: Guinea flower bush pea

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) vulnerable

Description

A shrub that is sometimes ground dwelling with branches that slope upwards (up to 2 metres tall). The branches are sparing and covered with shaggy or soft woolly hairs. **Leaves:** The leaves are crowded and spreading (approximately 10-12 mm long). They are narrow and very concave with margins that curve inwards. The leaf stalks are short with outgrowths at the bases (stipules) spreading or bent backwards and between 4-5 mm long. The leaves are usually hairy. **Flowers:** The flowers are borne on short flower stalks in dense heads that are surrounded and overlapped by the foliage leaves. The bracts (leaf-like structures) are numerous, overlapping and hardened. The outermost whorl of floral parts (calyx) is between 4-5 mm and is as long as the lobes. All of the petals are orange-yellow, however the lowest petal (actually two fused together) or keel is darker. **Fruit:** The fruit is a pod, which is longer than the calyx, oval shaped, inflated and hairy (description from Curtis & Morris 1975). Most herbarium specimens have been collected in October and November. **This species was previously known as *Pultenaea hibbertioides*.**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria. In Tasmania, *Pultenaea mollis* is found in the north-east of the State in heathy woodland. This species occurs mainly around Lefroy, Georgetown and Weymouth, with other records from Beaconsfield and Georges Bay near St. Helens (Curtis & Morris 1975, TPLUC 1996).

Known Reserves

This species is reserved in the Den Ranges Forest Reserve and the Lefroy Forest Reserve.

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Beechford Road (north of Lefroy), Weymouth, Beaconsfield, Point Effingham, George Town, East Tamar Highway (turnoff to Lefroy nearest Launceston), Pipers River area, Georges Bay and the gold workings near Lulworth.

The number of populations has been estimated at greater than 16, with 1000s of individual plants. *Pultenaea mollis* occurs over a geographical range of approximately 150 kilometres (TPLUC 1996)

Ecology and Management

This species recruits seedlings from the soil stored seed-bank after gap forming disturbance, such as fire. Unless this species can regenerate vegetatively, there is a large threat that the populations may die out if they are exposed to low intensity, frequent fire regimes (Kirkpatrick 1991). *Pultenaea mollis* suffers adverse impacts from clearing, firewood collection, road maintenance and the absence of disturbance. Fire can have both adverse and beneficial impacts. This species is also threatened by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (root rot) and requires active management as the main population at the Den Ranges is infected with the disease (Barker 1994).

Bees are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

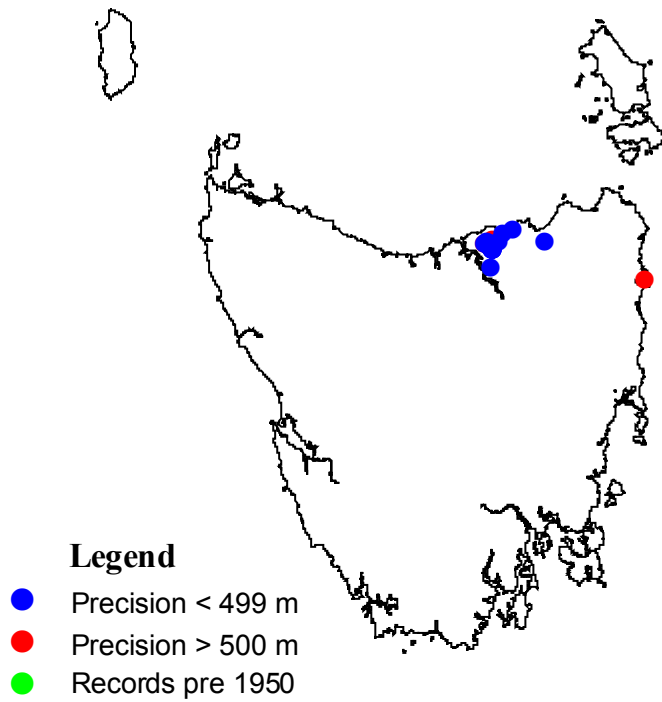
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Pultenaea mollis*.

Further Information

- Barker, P.C.J. 1994, *Phytophthora cinnamomi: The Susceptibility and management of selected Tasmanian rare species*. Forestry Tasmania and Australian Nature Conservation Agency.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1991, *Tasmanian Native Bush: A Management Handbook*, Tasmanian Environment Centre, Hobart.
- Lynch, AJJ 1993, *Conservation Biology and Management of 16 Rare or Threatened FABACEAE Species in Tasmania*, Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program Project No. 4, Parks & Wildlife Service, 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, September 2002)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Beaconsfield, Bell Bay, Lilydale, Low Head, Retreat, St. Helens, Tam O Shanter, Weymouth.

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