

Haloragis myriocarpa



Scanned image by Richard Schahinger

FAMILY: HALORAGACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Haloragis myriocarpa*
Orchard, *Bull. Auckland Inst. Mus.* 10: 132 (1975)

COMMON NAME: Prickly raspwort

COMMONWEALTH STATUS (EPBC Act): Not Listed

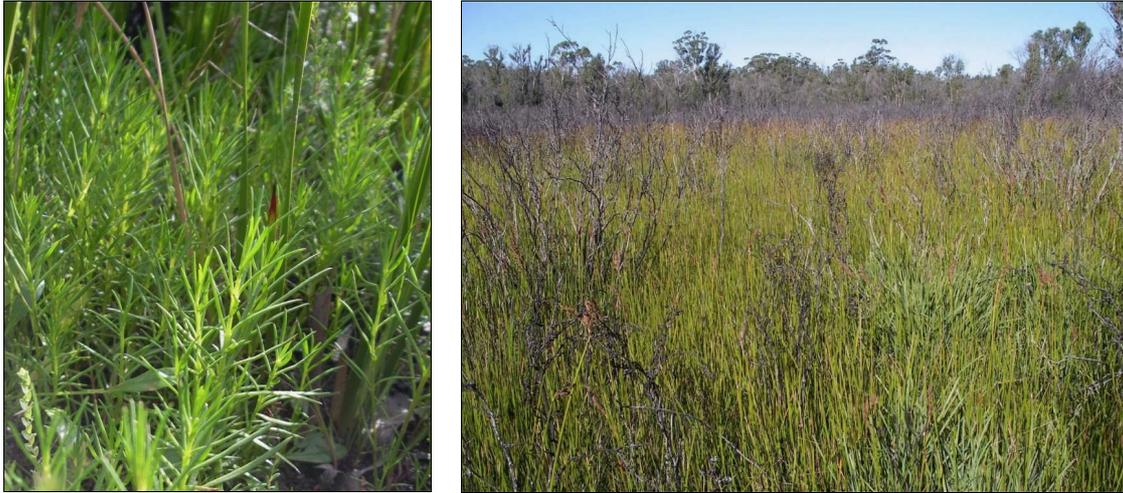
TASMANIAN STATUS (TSP Act): rare

Description

Haloragis myriocarpa is a perennial herb 30 to 60 cm tall. Its stems are smooth or weakly 4-ribbed and glabrous. Leaves are arranged opposite each other near the base and alternately above; they are sessile, linear to terete, 15 to 45 mm long, glabrous or sparsely scabrous, their margins entire or with small sparse lobes, with submucronate apices. The inflorescence consists of 5 to 7 flowers in the axils of the upper leaves. Each flower has 4 sepals, 4 petals and 8 stamens: sepals are narrowly deltoid 0.6 to 0.9 mm long, petals 2 to 2.7 mm long and red. The ovary is 4-locular and 8-ribbed. The fruit is an ovoid to globose nut up to 1.5 mm long, with 8 ribs or narrow wings, glabrous. Flowering from November to February. (Description from Orchard 1990 and Walsh & Entwisle 1996) **Confusing species:** *Haloragis heterophylla* has leaves that are typically trifid with two rather long teeth, fewer flowers (1 to 3 per inflorescence), and stems and leaves that are usually scabrous (Orchard 1990).

Distribution and Habitat

On mainland Australia *Haloragis myriocarpa* occurs in South Australia and Victoria (Orchard 1990). In Tasmania the species has been recorded from the Bass Strait islands (Flinders, Cape Barren, Clarke and King), and from the central east coast inland of Friendly Beaches. Habitat at Friendly Beaches consists of *Lepidosperma longitudinale* sedgeland with emergent shrubs such as *Leptospermum lanigerum* (woolly teatree), *Melaleuca gibbosa* (slender honeymyrtle) and *Melaleuca virens* (prickly bottlebrush), and herbs such as *Centella cordifolia*, *Ranunculus amphitrichus* and *Scaevola hookeri* (with the occasional *Eucalyptus ovata*). Sites on Flinders Island are mostly associated with 'wetland herbfields' (Kirkpatrick & Harwood 1981).



Plates 1 & 2. *Haloragis myriocarpa*: habit and habitat near Friendly Beaches
(images by Richard Schahinger)

Key Sites and Populations

Friendly Beaches, Hogan Lagoon, Stony Lagoon.

Known Reserves

Foochow Conservation Area, Freycinet National Park, Patriarchs Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

The main threat to *Haloragis myriocarpa* is habitat depletion resulting from vegetation clearance and/or changes to hydrology. The experience at Friendly Beaches following a wildfire in January 2013 indicates that the species may persist for at least a few years after fire, but thereafter may be shaded out by shrubs. The longevity of the soil-stored seed-bank is unknown, though time-scales in the order of decades are likely given its emergence at long-unburnt sites.

Conservation Status Assessment

Haloragis myriocarpa is known to be locally abundant near Friendly Beaches, the most recent sighting dating to April 2014 (Plates 1 & 2). However, the status of the species on the Bass Strait islands is poorly known: few of the recorded sites have estimates of abundance or area of occupancy, nor details of habitat or threatening processes, and most lack precise location details. In addition, the veracity of sites on Clarke Island, Cape Barren Island and King Island is open to question, as none have supporting herbarium specimens. A re-assessment of the species' conservation status may be warranted following resolution of these issues, ideally to be undertaken in conjunction with targeted surveys of suitable habitat that has been recently burnt.

Further Information

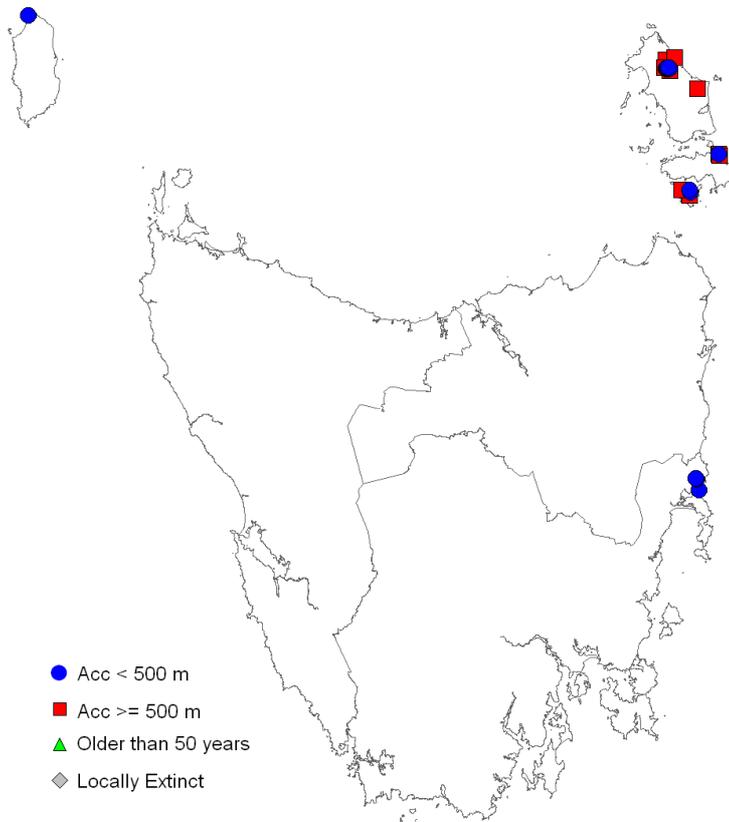
Kirkpatrick, J.B. & Harwood, C.E (1981). *The Conservation of Tasmanian Wetland Macrophytic Species and Communities*. A Report to the Australian Heritage Commission from the Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc., Hobart.

Orchard, A.E. (1990). Haloragaceae, *Flora of Australia* 18: 5–85.

Walsh, N.G. & Entwisle, T.J. (1996). *Flora of Victoria, Volume 3. Dicotyledons: Winteraceae to Myrtaceae*. Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species and Marine Section records, April 2014)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Friendly, Patriarchs, Preservation, Puncheon, Wickham, Wingaroo

Date last modified: 15/04/2014

View

<http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

Contact details

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Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.