

Stellaria multiflora



Stellaria multiflora. G. Jordan.

FAMILY: CARYOPHYLLACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Stellaria multiflora*, Hook., *Comp. Bot. Mag.* 1: 275 (1836)

COMMON NAME: Rayless starwort

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (EPBC Act) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (TSP Act) rare pending delisting when one component, *Stellaria multiflora* subsp. *nebulosa*, will be listed as rare

Description

A hairless, annual herb that is often tufted with several erect or ascending stems (between 5-15 cm tall). **Leaves:** The leaves are stalkless and arranged oppositely along the stem. They are linear to lance-shaped, between 5-7 mm long and up to 2.5 mm wide. **Flowers:** The flowers are green, the leaf-like structures associated with the flower (sepals) are 3-4 mm long and the petals are absent. Flowering occurs from August to January. **Fruit:** The fruit is an ovoid capsule, containing small seeds (description from Curtis & Morris 1975).

Distribution and Habitat

This species occurs in Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania, *Stellaria multiflora* occurs in rocky situations within a variety of vegetation types throughout the State (Curtis & Morris 1975). **Two subspecies have been described, *Stellaria multiflora* subsp. *multiflora* and *Stellaria multiflora* subsp. *nebulosa* (Miller & West 2012).**

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Curtis Island, Bellerive, Bruny Island, Lake Julian (Ironstone Mtn), Long Marsh Road near Parramores Swamp, Bayleys Hill, Wedgetail Peak, Little Split Rock, Reeves Creek, Mt. Cameron, Warners Sugarloaf, Hibbs Bay, Cat Gut Gully, Bluff River Gorge, Broad River near Cluny Lagoon, behind Planter Beach on east Flinders Island, southwest of Cape Huay, Bradys Lookout, Parramores Tier, Drys Bluff, Risdon Brook Dam, Pinchgut Hill, Mt. Lloyd, Monpeelyata Road (Rushcroft Creek), Huntingdon Tier, Mount Douglas and Brown Mountain.

Known Reserves

Reserved in Andersons Nature Reserve, Brown Mountain Conservation Area, Brushy Rivulet Conservation Area, Cameron Regional Reserve, Central Plateau Conservation Area, Curtis Island Nature Reserve, Drys Bluff Conservation Area, Four

Mile Beach Regional Reserve, Great Lake Conservation Area, Great Western Tiers Conservation Area, Harry Walker Tier Conservation Area, Kent Group National Park, Lackrana Conservation Area, Lime Bay State Reserve, Little Pine Lagoon

Conservation Area, Logan Lagoon Conservation Area, Mount Puzzler Regional Reserve, Mount William National Park, Musselroe Bay Conservation Area, Prime Seal Island Conservation Area, Remarkable Rock Conservation Area, Russell Ridge Conservation Area, Snow Hill Forest Reserve, South Bruny National Park, Southwest Conservation Area, Spinning Gum Conservation Area, Tasman National Park, The Steppes State Reserve Three Hummock Island State Reserve, Three Thumbs State Reserve and Top Marshes Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

Even though this species has a wide distribution and is known from a relatively large number of sites, population sizes are small with generally less than 10 plants and the area occupied is small (Tasmanian Flora Network July assessment 2002).

Conservation Status Assessment

The assessment of the conservation status of the two subspecies of *Stellaria multiflora* was undertaken in October 2015. As a result *Stellaria multiflora* subsp. *nebulosa* is in the process of being listed as rare on Schedules of the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, though *Stellaria multiflora* subsp. *multiflora* was not considered to meet the criteria for listing due to its widespread distribution and large number of populations resulting from new observations since the time of listing of the parent species. When the listing of *Stellaria multiflora* subsp. *nebulosa*, occurs, the parent species will be removed from the Schedules.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Barker, P, Brown, MJ, Harris, S & Mackie, R 1994, *The Reservation Status of Tasmanian Vascular Plant Communities*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust Incorporated, Hobart.
- Miller, CH & West, JG 2012, A revision of the genus *Stellaria* (Caryophyllaceae). *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 25: 27–54.

Date last modified: 6/1/2016

View

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

Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 61654340.

Permit

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

Tasmanian Distribution (showing IBRA bioregions)
(As per Threatened Species Section records, May 2015)



