Arthropodium strictum

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H & A Wapstra.

FAMILY: LILIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Arthropodium strictum*, R.Br., *Prodr*. 276 (1810)

COMMON NAME: Chocolate lily

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) delisted from rare April 2016

Description

A plant up to 90 cm tall with tuberous roots that are usually between 15 mm long and 5-10 mm wide. **Leaves:** The leaves are flat and up to 40 cm long and 1-7 mm wide. **Flowers:** The inflorescence is either racemose (succession along stem where oldest flower is at the base) or paniculate (inflorescence with primary and secondary axis, branched). There is one flower per node (stem joint), however there may occasionally be two from the lower nodes. The flower stalks are up to 35 cm long and each flower has bracts (leaf-like structures) that are between 5-15 mm long. All flower parts are between 6-14 mm long and purple in colour. The outer segments are between 3-4 mm wide and the inner ones between 6-10 mm wide. The margins are narrowly fringed. The anthers (pollen sacs) are between 3-4.5 mm long and are either purple or yellow. The filaments (stalk holding anthers) are flattened. The ovary is between 1-1.5 mm in diameter. The flowers have a distinctive scent, which smells like chocolate. **Fruit:** The fruit is a capsule that is spherical in shape and between 4-7 mm in diameter. It is usually enclosed in the remnants of the flower parts. The seeds are black and angular (description from Curtis & Morris 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected in November and December. **This species was previously known as *Dichopogon strictus*.**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania, *Arthropodium strictum* is found in open forest, dry hillsides and grasslands. It occurs predominantly in the eastern half of the State (through the Midlands, north-east and on the East Coast) (Curtis & Morris 1994).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include the Symmons Plains Raceway, Rokeby Hills, Launceston, Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston, Mt. Pleasant, Launceston, the Midlands Highway, Ecclestone Road, South Bridgenorth Road Junction, Lake River west of Campbell Town, Hillwood on the Tamar River and Powranna Road.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Carr Villa Conservation Area, the Forest Vale State Reserve, Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, Maria Island National Park, Mount Roland Regional Reserve, Powranna Nature Reserve, Punchbowl Conservation Area, Tom Gibson Nature Reserve, Walls of Jerusalem National Park and Wellington Park.

Ecology and Management

Mature plants are unlikely to be killed by fire and may regenerate from the tuberous roots system. Occasional low-density fires between 5-15 years may open the sward, allowing habitat for the germination of new plants (Morgan 1998).

This species is suffering incremental loss due to agricultural and residential development.

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

Conservation Status Assessment

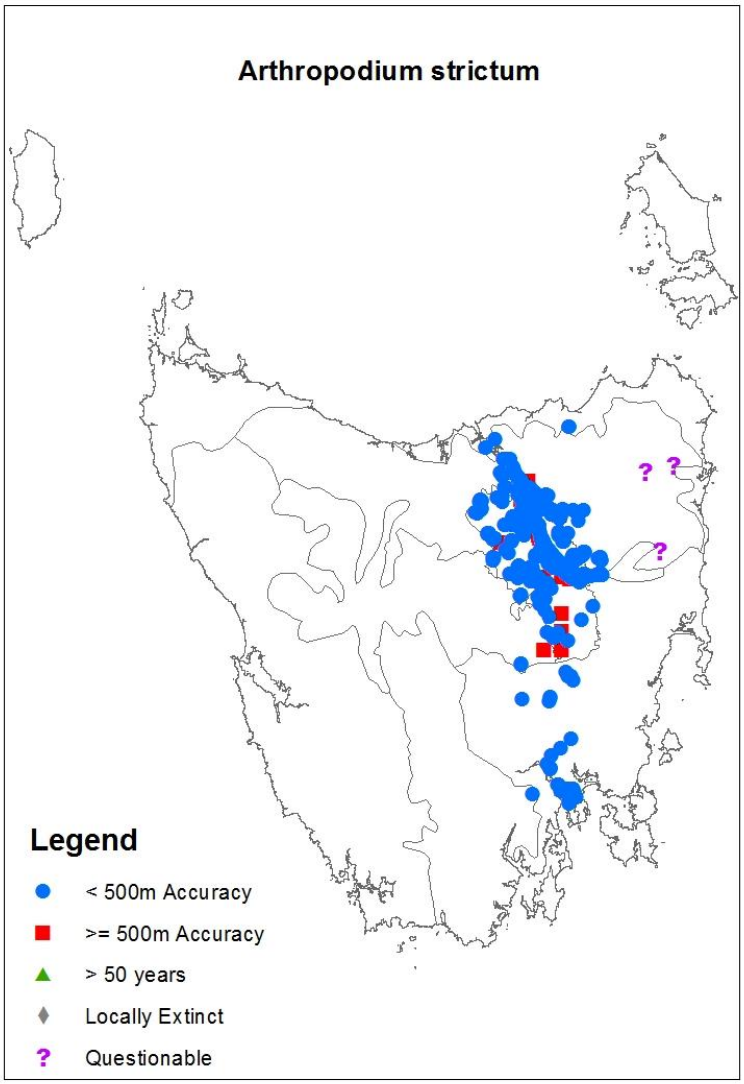
Due to its widespread distribution and large number of populations and individuals resulting from new observations since the time of listing, the conservation status of *Arthropodium strictum* was reassessed resulting in the species being delisted from schedules of the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* in April 2016.

Further Information

- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania,* Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Gray, M & Knight, J eds 2001, *Flora of Melbourne: A Guide to the Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area*, Hyland House Publishing, Melbourne.
- Morgan, JW 1998, 'Comparative Germination Responses of 28 Temperate Grassland Species', *Australian Journal of Botany*, vol .46, pp.209-219.
- Strickland, K & P 1994, Peninsular Plants, Volume Two, Kareelah Bush Nursery, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution (showing IBRA bioregions)

(As per Threatened Species Section records, May 2015)



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Contact details

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