

Lepidium pseudotasmanicum



Lepidium pseudotasmanicum.
H & A Wapstra.

FAMILY: BRASSICACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Lepidium pseudotasmanicum*,
Thell., *Neue Denkschr. Schweiz. Naturw. Ges.* 41(1):
307 (1906)

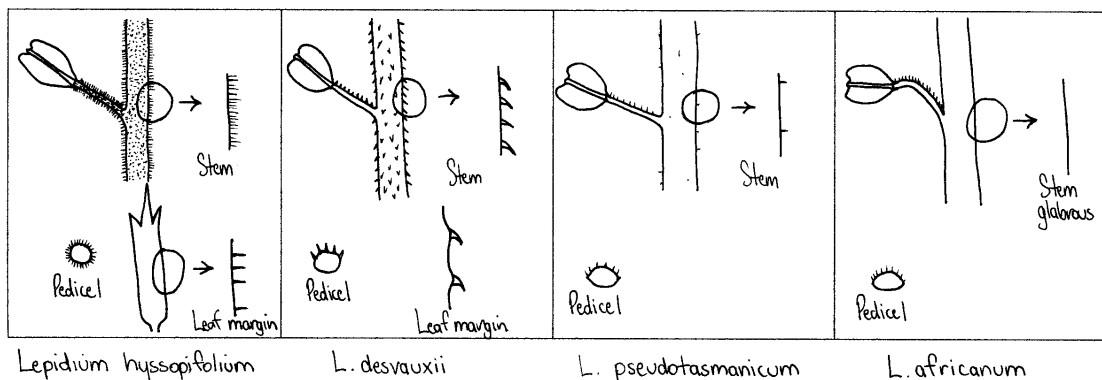
COMMON NAME: Shade peppergrass

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (EPBC Act) Not
Listed

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

Description

A perennial, weedy looking erect herb between 60-70 cm high. **Stems:** The stem is hairless, smooth and round in cross section. **Leaves:** The lower stem leaves are shortly toothed and the upper leaves are entire or with the tip shortly toothed. **Flowers:** The flowers are green, tinged with purple, minute and borne on an elongating stem. Flowering occurs from spring to autumn. **Fruit:** The fruit is an ovate pod. Each plant produces a large amount of seed (description Curtis & Morris 1975). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from August to April. **Please refer to the attached *Lepidium* taxonomy table (Strain 2002).**



Drawing: C. Strain

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia. It also occurs in New Zealand. In Tasmania, *Lepidium pseudotasmanicum* is found on bare ground in grassland and grassy woodland in the south with scattered populations extending up the midlands to Punchbowl in the north (TPLUC 1996).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Little Swan Point, West Tamar, South Esk Highway, Bagdad Uniting Church, Chauncy Vale Road, Clutha Ave., South Hobart, Risdon Cove Historic Site, Margate (bank of North West Bay River), Penguin Island in the Fluted Cape State Reserve, Dennes Jetty, Great Bay on Bruny Island, New Norfolk, River Ouse, Hogan Island in the Hogan Group, Rokeby, Bellerive, Sandy Bay, the Bridgewater causeway, St Johns Road in New Town, Boomer Creek (southern end of Marion Bay), Mt Nelson, Jordan River on the Broadmarsh Road, Boomer Marsh at Dunalley, Maria Island, the Blowhole at Blackmans Bay, Lake Sorell, Glenorchy, Bells Lagoon, Molesworth School, Mt. Faulkner, Cambridge, Richmond, Kirwans Beach in St. Helens, Black Snake Lane in Granton, Red Hut Point on King Island, Falmouth and Acanthe Park in Lenah Valley.

Known Reserves

Well reserved with populations known from the Alpha Pinnacle Conservation Area, Conningham Nature Recreation Area, East Risdon State Reserve, Freycinet National Park, Gordons Hill Nature Recreation Area, Harry Walker Tier Conservation Area, Heathy Hills Nature Reserve, Meehan Range Nature Recreation Area, River Derwent Conservation Area, South Bruny National Park, Tamar River Conservation Area and Truganini Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

This species relies on gap-forming disturbance, such as fire, for recruitment from seed. Disturbance associated with quarries, roads and tracks benefit the species, but aspects of roadside maintenance may have a negative impact (TPLUC 1996, Kirkpatrick 2007). The species can persist under exotic trees where the growth of herbs and grasses is suppressed (Kirkpatrick 2007).

Insects 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 *Lepidium pseudotasmanicum* was reassessed, resulting in the species being delisted from schedules of the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* in April 2016.

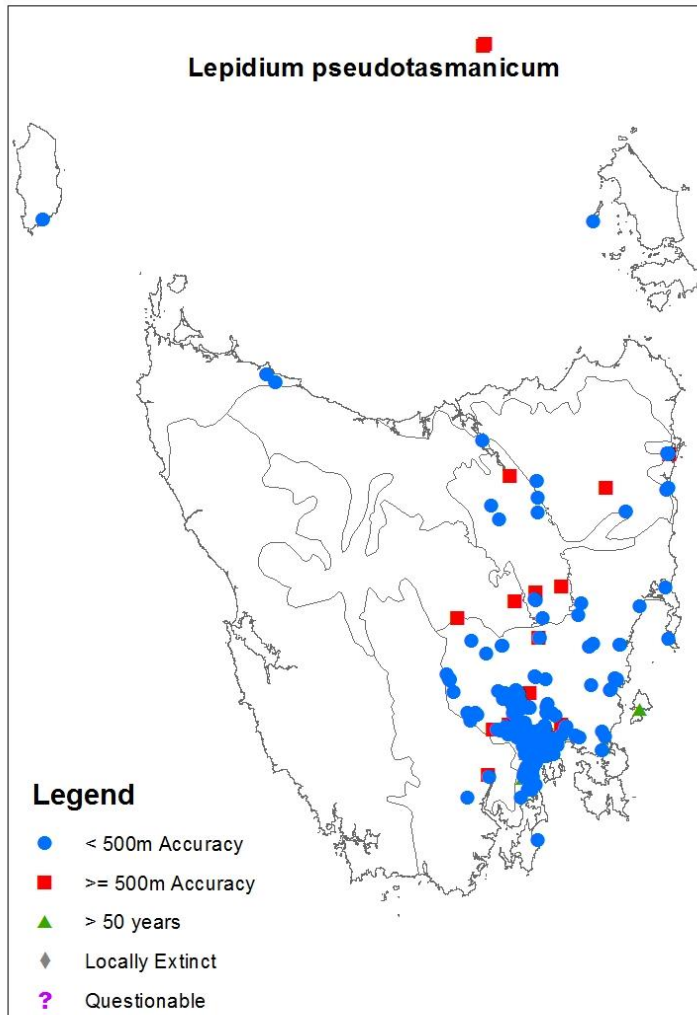
Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick JB 2007, Collateral benefit: unconscious conservation of threatened plant species. *Australian Journal of Botany*, vol. 55, pp 221–224.

- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement*, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution (showing IBRA bioregions)

(As per Threatened Species Section records, May 2015)



Date last modified: 4/5/2016

Contact details

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

Taxonomic comparison of four *Lepidium* species occurring in Tasmania

Cassandra Strain, June 2002

<i>Description</i>	<i>L. hyssopifolium</i>	<i>L. desvauxii</i>	<i>L. pseudotasmanicum</i>	<i>L. africanum</i> (i)
Life	Perennial	Perennial	Annual, biennial or perennial	Annual or perennial
Growth habit	Erect	Erect to spreading	Erect	Erect
Overall height	50 cm	40 cm 60 cm (Curtis)	20-30 (-60) cm	To 70 cm
Overall hairs	Yes, fine and short	Yes, scabrous.		No
Stem hairs	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	Glabrous or scattered hairs	No, Glabrous
Stem hair desc.	Fine, needle-shaped short hairs	Mostly deflexed, sometimes bilobed,		
Basal leaf shape	Pinnately lobed or toothed	Pinnately lobed, lobes toothed, terminal lobe largest, often large course hairs	Pinnately lobed, lobes narrowly linear	Mostly oblanceolate, sometimes pinnatisect with linear lobes
Basal leaf length			To 90 mm	20-80 mm
Stem leaf arrangement		Distant		
Stem leaf shape	Linear-lanceolate To pinnatisect with linear lobes	Spathulate to narrowly wedge-shaped	Linear, pinnate to entire	Lanceolate, acute apex
Leaf base	Some leaves auriculate (ear-shaped)	Tapering to auriculate	Somewhat narrowed (Curtis)	
Leaf surface	Fine short hairs		Midrib glabrous or with stout, needle-like or conical hairs	
Leaf margin	Toothed to entire	Toothed near apex	Pinnate to entire	Toothed to entire
Leaf margin hairs	<i>Longer than leaf hairs</i>	Arising from warty projections, often bilobed	Marginal glabrous or with stout, needle-like or conical hairs	Glabrous or sparse needle-like hairs
Leaf length	10-40 mm		To 90 mm	To 60 mm
Leaf width	1-2.5 mm		5 mm	5 mm
Inflorescence	Elongating raceme	Raceme	Elongating raceme	Dense elongating raceme
Sepal length	0.5-0.75 mm	0.5-0.8 mm	0.5-1 mm	To 0.8 mm
Petals	Reduced or absent	Very reduced, linear	Reduced or absent	Reduced, thread-like shorter than sepals
Stamen number	2 / Usually 2 (Harden, 1990)	2	2 / Usually 2 (Harden, 1990)	2 / Usually 2 (Harden, 1990)
Stigma	Sessile	Subsessile to sessile	Subsessile	Subsessile
Fruit	Silicula	Silicula	Silicula	Silicula
Silicula shape	Elliptic to ovate to narrow-lanceolate	Elliptic to ovate	Elliptic	Ovate, obovate to elliptic

Taxonomic comparison of four *Lepidium* species occurring in Tasmania

Cassandra Strain, June 2002

Silicula length	2.5-5 mm	2.5-3 mm	2.5-5 mm	2-3 mm
Silicula width	1.5-2.5 mm	1.75-3 mm	2-2.5 mm	1.5-2 mm
Silicula wing shape	Narrow	Narrow	Narrow	Narrow
Silicula covering		Usually glabrous	Glabrous	
Apical notch	Yes, small	Yes, small	Yes, shallow	Yes, shallow
Pedicel length	2-4 mm	3-4 mm 4-6 mm (Curtis)	2.5-6 mm	2-3 mm Shorter than or equal to silicula
Pedicel/stem attachment	Spreading	Spreading +/- spreading (Curtis)	Spreading	<i>Curved, bow-shaped</i>
Pedicel shape	Terete		Somewhat flattened	Somewhat flattened
Pedicel covering?	Hairy above & below	Hairy above, less so below	Finely/ minutely hairy on upper surface only	Finely to minutely hairy on upper surface

Bibliography

Based on:

Harden, Gwen, J. (Ed), 1990, *Flora of New South Wales – Volume 1*, University Press, Kensington, New South Wales.

Walsh, N.G. & Entwisle, T.J., 1996, *Flora of Victoria – Volume 3*, Reed International Books Pty Ltd, Port Melbourne, Victoria.

Also referred to:

Curtis, Winifred & Morris, Dennis, 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania Part 1*, Government Printer, Tasmania.