

# *Leucopogon affinis*



Tasmanian Herbarium collection

**FAMILY:** EPACRIDACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Leucopogon affinis*, R.Br.,  
*Prodr. Fl. Nov. Holland.:* 541 (1810)

**COMMON NAME:** lance beardheath

**COMMONWEALTH STATUS** (EPBC Act): Not Listed

**TASMANIAN STATUS** (TSP Act): rare

## Description

*Leucopogon affinis* is an erect shrub to 2 metres high. Its leaves are hairless, nearly stalkless and lance-shaped, being widest at about midway, with a pointed tip and a narrow base. They are flat and marked with longitudinal lines. The entire leaf is up to 5 cm long. The white flowers are in rather sparse spikes in the upper leaf axils or at the ends of the branches. The corolla is 3 to 4 mm long, white, the five spreading lobes covered in hairs on their inner surface. Flowering occurs from August to October. The fruit is an ellipsoid drupe about c. 3 mm long, green at first, orange-reddish when ripe. **Confusing species:** *Leucopogon parviflorus* has leaves that are widest above midway, flowers that are comparatively crowded, and fruit that is white when ripe (description from Walsh & Entwisle 1996, Harris et al. 2001).

**Note:** The taxon's prior name, *Leucopogon lanceolatus* var. *lanceolatus*, was found to be invalid according to naming conventions ... the taxon was renamed *Leucopogon affinis* in Tasmania in 2013.

## Distribution and Habitat

*Leucopogon affinis* occurs in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland (Walsh & Entwisle 1996). In Tasmania the species is known from the major islands of Bass Strait; records from the mainland's north and northwest coast require confirmation. Habitat includes tall scrub, mainly on stabilised dune sands and hinterlands, lagoon margins, and gullies and riverbanks in wet eucalypt forest.

## Key Sites and Populations

King Island, Flinders Island, Cape Barren Island, Clarke Island, Long Island.

## Known Reserves

Darling Range Conservation Area, Foochow Conservation Area, Killiecrankie Nature Recreation Area, Lime Pit Road Conservation Area, Long Island Conservation Area, Mount Tanner Nature Recreation Area, Mulligans Hill Conservation Area, Patriarchs

Conservation Area and Sister Islands Conservation Area (& possibly Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area).

### **Ecology and Management**

*Leucopogon affinis* is known to be susceptible to the exotic soil-borne plant pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in laboratory conditions (Barker 1994), and may be disadvantaged by high fire frequencies (TPLUC 1996). Barnes et al. (2002) state that the clearance of coastal scrub and dry forest along King Island's coastline is a significant threat to this species. They suggest that areas where *Leucopogon affinis* is found should be fenced to exclude both stock and human activities, including vehicle use and the lighting of fires.

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

### **Conservation Status Assessment**

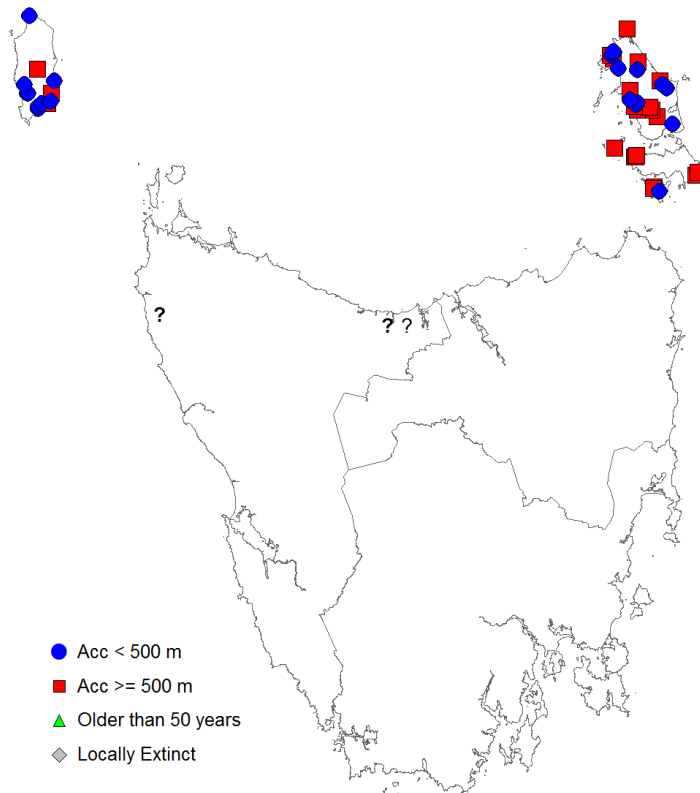
There is very little information available re the abundance or extent of the species at recorded sites in Tasmania, with many being represented by records that are decades old. Surveys to determine the status of known sites is required before a meaningful re-assessment of the species' conservation status can be undertaken.

### **Further Information**

- Barker, P.C.J. (1994). *Phytophthora cinnamomi: The Susceptibility and Management of Selected Tasmanian Rare Species*, Forestry Tasmania & Australian Nature Conservation Agency, Hobart.
- Barnes, R.W., Duncan, F. & Todd, C.S. (2002). *The Native Vegetation of King Island, Bass Strait*, Nature Conservation Report 02/6, Nature Conservation Branch, Resource Management & Conservation, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.
- Harris, S., Buchanan, A. & Connolly, A. (2001). *One Hundred Islands: The Flora of the Outer Furneaux*. Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission (TPLUC) (1996). *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report, Part C*, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.
- 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 Section records, May 2016)



### 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Anderson, Badger, Currie, Devonport (?), Grassy, Latrobe (?), Leventhorpe, Logan, Memana, Naracoopa, Palana, Patriarchs, Pearshape, Preservation, Sea Elephant, Sister, Stokes, Tanner, Temma (?), Thirsty, Whitemark, Wickham, Wingaroo.

Date last modified: 4/06/2016

### View

[www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists](http://www.dpipwe.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) 6165 4340.

### Permit

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