

Asperula minima



Asperula minima. H&A Wapstra.

FAMILY: RUBIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Asperula minima*,
Hook.f., *Hook. Lond. J. Bot.* 6: 464 bis
(1847)

COMMON NAME: mossy woodruff

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A small perennial plant with a branching rhizome (underground stem). **Stems:** The hairless stems are woody, between 5-6 cm and form matted patches that are a few centimetres in diameter. **Leaves:** The spreading leaves are in whorls of 6 or 8 and are stalkless (sessile). The leaves are about 2-4 mm long, wider towards the end of the leaf and are often tipped with a short, clear hair. The upper surface of the leaf is covered with short hairs that are rough to the touch. **Flowers:** The stalked flowers are solitary or in clusters of three. They are found in the axils (where the leaf meets the stem). The flowers are quite large when compared with the leaves. Flowering is from October to December (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is dry and does not split open. It consists of two, one-seeded parts (description from Curtis 1963, Willis 1972). See Thompson (2009) for an updated description and key. Herbarium specimens have been collected from October to March.

A distinctive feature of *Asperula minima* is the contrast between the numerous minute hairs on the adaxial leaf surface and the few robust hairs on the abaxial midrib. It can be distinguished from the newly described *Asperula oblanceolata* by its smaller flowers and leaves that are narrower, more commonly narrow-elliptic with a moderately hairy upper surface (Thompson 2009).

Ecology and Management

There is currently no information available regarding the ecology and management of this species.

Conservation Status Assessment

There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Asperula minima*.



Asperula minima.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

***Note that Thompson (2009) does not accept the 1840 records from the Central Highlands held at the Tasmanian Herbarium to be genuine. The record from near Hobart is unvouchered and cannot be verified. The distribution of the species in Tasmania will require verification.**

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 2, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Thompson, IR 2009, A revision of *Asperula* and *Galium* (Rubiaceae: Rubiaceae) in Australia, *Muellaria* vol .27(1), pp.36-112.
- Willis, JH 1972, *A Handbook of Plants in Victoria*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.

Preceding text last modified 19/5/2009.

Following updated 14/9/2016.

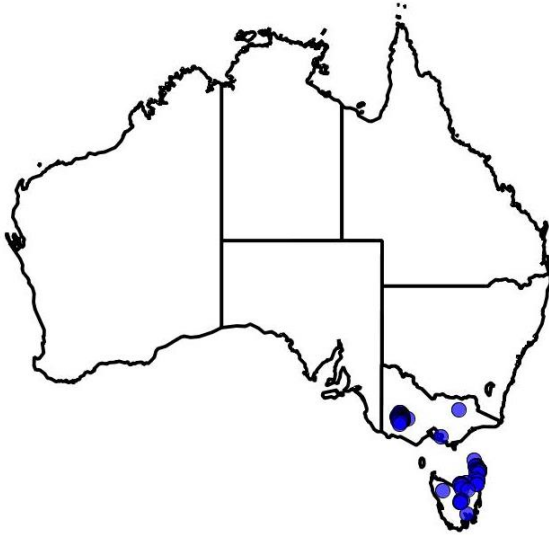
Survey Time and Habitat Guide (*black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records*)

<i>Asperula minima</i>	Spring			Summer				Autumn				Winter												
mossy woodruff	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A

- Flowering of this perennial herb is from October to December (Flora of Victoria). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from late October to early December. The species can be distinguished from other species of *Asperula* using vegetative characteristics.
- In Tasmania *Asperula minima* occurs in a range of vegetation types, the common factor being locally impeded drainage. Habitats include near-coastal swamp forests, *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest, *Eucalyptus ovata* sedgy forest, old pasture regenerating to sedges and rushes, and firebreaks adjacent to clearfelled forest.

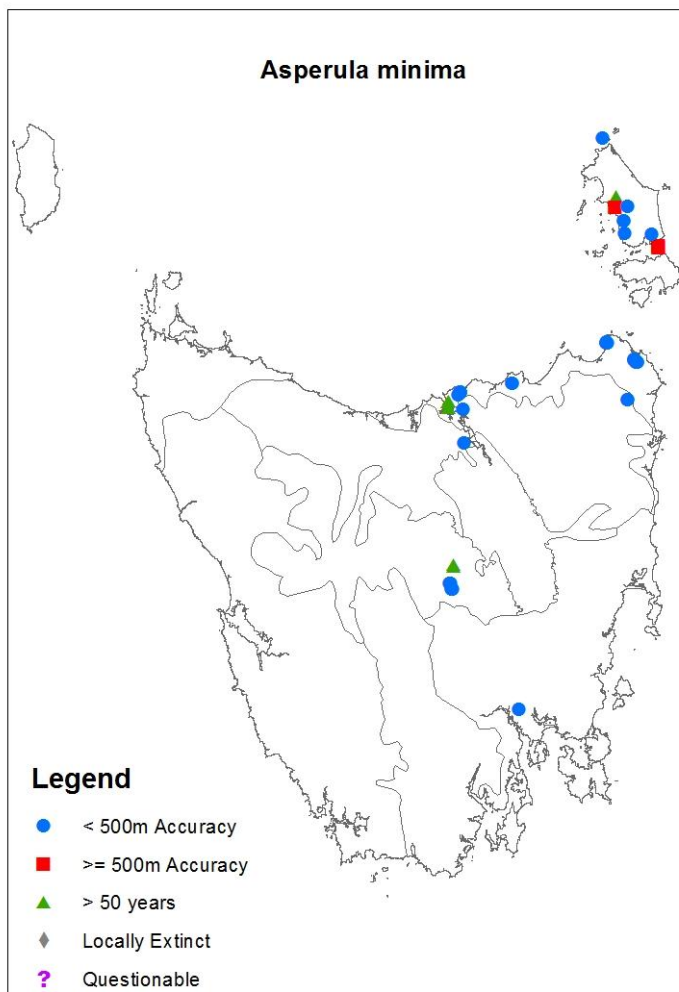
Distribution

(Atlas of Living Australia 14/9/2016)



Tasmanian Distribution

(Natural Values Atlas May 2015)*



Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Asperula minima (mossy woodruff)*. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.

View

<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.