

# *Asperula subsimplex*



*Asperula subsimplex*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

**FAMILY:** RUBIACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Asperula subsimplex*,  
Hook.f., *Hook. Lond. J. Bot.* 6: 463 bis (1847)

**COMMON NAME:** water woodruff

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

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

## Description

A small perennial herb of aquatic habit. **Stems:** This species has square stems that are between 10-20 cm long, hairless and usually erect. **Leaves:** The leaves are stalkless (sessile) and in whorls of 4, except below a branch where whorls of 6 can occur. The leaves are narrow-linear shaped and approximately 2-5 mm long. The leaves of the upper whorls are often shorter and broader than the rest and have rough, hairy upper surfaces. The upper surfaces of the lower whorls are usually hairless. The leaf margins are sometimes bent under. **Flowers:** The cream, very fragrant flowers are either solitary or in clusters of two to three-flowers located in the axils (where the leaf meets the stem) of the upper leaf whorls. Flowering is from October to February (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is dry and does not split open. It consists of two, one-seeded parts (description from Curtis 1963, Kirkpatrick 1988, Willis 1972). See Thompson (2009) for an updated description and key.

This species is readily identifiable by being near glabrous and its 4 leaf whorls, small dull leaves, few flowered clusters and ovary of female flowers with a recessed nectary after corolla-fall (Thompson2009).

## 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 subsimplex*.



*Asperula subsimplex*. R. Hale.

**Further Information**

- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 2, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Gilfedder L & Fensham RJ 1988, *City Parks and Cemeteries: Tasmania's Remnant Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, 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 15/9/2016.**

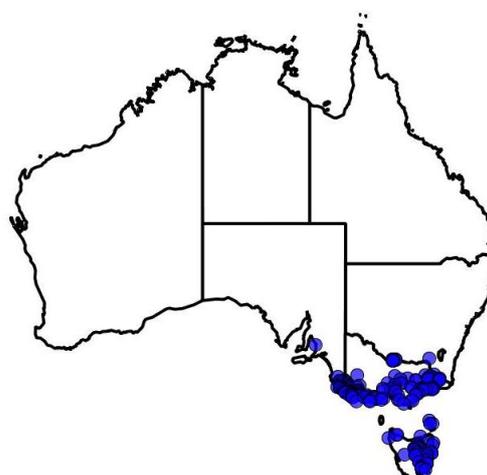
**Survey Time and Habitat Guide** (*black* = best, *dark grey* = possible, *light grey with slash*=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records)

<i>Asperula subsimplex</i>	Spring			Summer				Autumn				Winter												
water 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 weak trailing perennial herb is from October to February (Flora of Victoria). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from late November to March, the recommended timing for surveys, though the species has been observed at other times of the year. The species can be distinguished from other species of *Asperula* using vegetative characteristics (glabrous, 4-whorled).
- In Tasmania, *Asperula subsimplex* occurs in sites with impeded drainage, including damp grasslands, floodplains and sometimes in grassy forest and woodland along drainage depressions (even at the outfall of artificial dams).

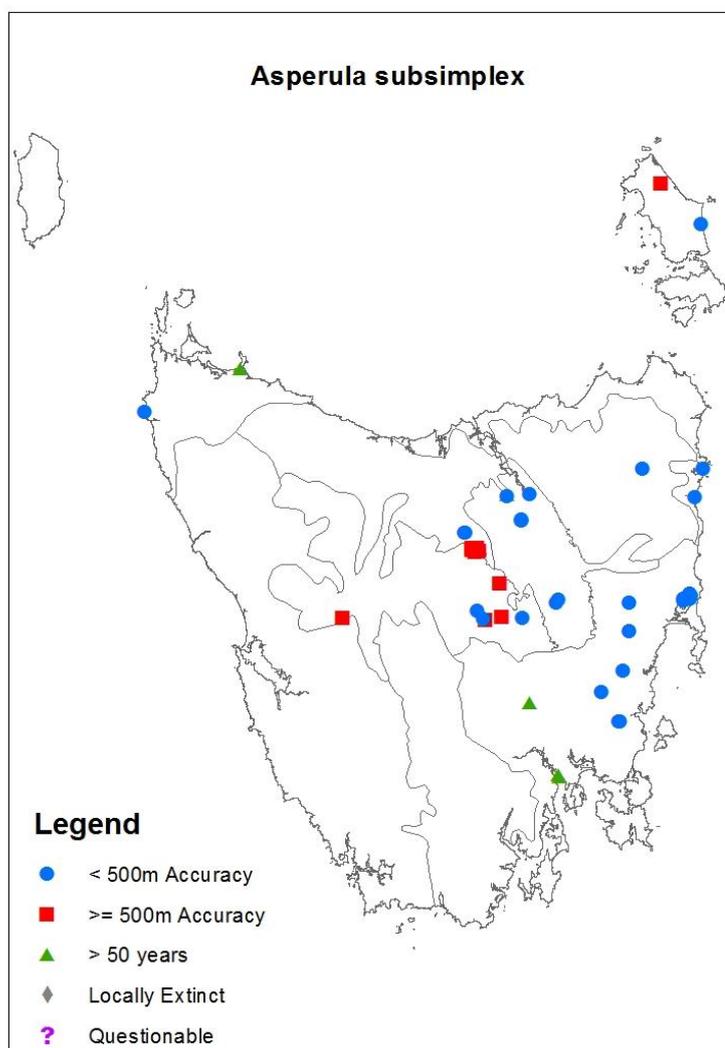
**Distribution**

(Atlas of Living Australia 15/9/2016)



## Tasmanian Distribution

(Natural Values Atlas May 2015)



### Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Asperula subsimplex (water 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.