

# *Calocephalus lacteus*



*Calocephalus lacteus*. H & A Wapstra

**FAMILY:** ASTERACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Calocephalus lacteus*, Less., *Syn. Gen. Compos.*: 271 (1832)

**COMMON NAME:** milky beautyheads

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

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

## Description

A perennial herb, which forms dense patches 60 cm or more in diameter. The plant is covered with small white hairs so that its surface appears white or greyish. **Stems:** The aerial stem is erect and between 15-60 cm long. The stems are branched, white and densely covered in hairs. **Leaves:** The lower leaves are arranged oppositely along the stem and the upper leaves are arranged alternately. The leaves have a blunt tip that has a clear margin. They are between 1.5-5 cm long and densely covered with white hairs. **Flowers:** The flowers are at the ends of the branches in clusters of white, ovoid heads between 8-14 mm long. Flowering occurs between November to March and most herbarium specimens have been collected at this time. **Fruit:** The fruit is one-seeded and dry with a pappus (ring of scales or hairs found on top of fruit) (Curtis 1963).

## Ecology and Management

This species requires bare ground for recruitment. Disturbance appears to be beneficial for this species as it is often found on roadsides and beside tracks (L. Gilfedder pers. comm).

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

## Conservation Status Assessment

There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Calocephalus lacteus*.

## Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 2, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Barker, P, Brown, MJ, Harris, S & Mackie, R 1994, *The Reservation Status of Tasmanian Vascular Plant Communities*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust Incorporated, Hobart.



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**Preceding text last modified 3/9/2003.**

**Following updated 20/9/2016.**

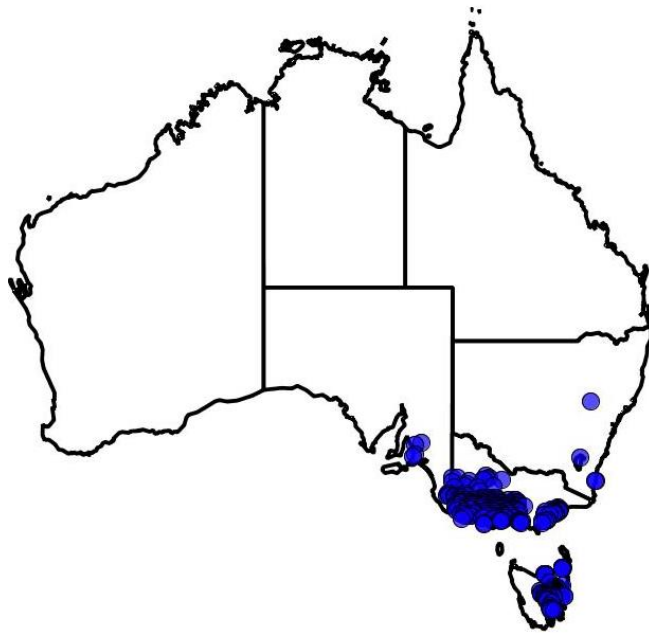
**Survey Time and Habitat Guide** (black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records)

<i>Calocephalus lacteus</i>	Spring				Summer				Autumn				Winter											
milky beautyheads	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A

- While flowers are required to confirm the identity of this smallish perennial herb, the species can be detected throughout most of the year due to its distinctive silvery-blue foliage, though plants may die back somewhat over winter. Flowering occurs between November and March and most herbarium specimens have been collected at this time.
- In Tasmania, *Calocephalus lacteus* occurs in open, dry sites in lowland areas of eastern and northern Tasmania and on lower altitudes of the Central Plateau. It is often found on roadsides and beside tracks.

**Distribution**

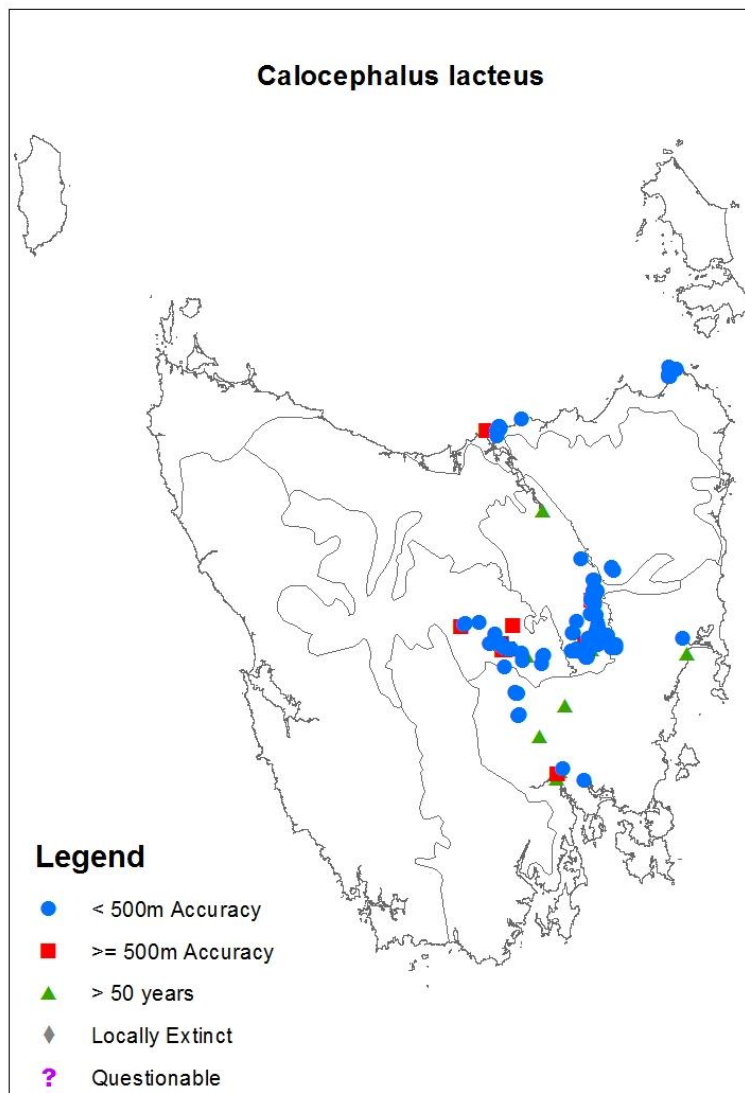
(Atlas of Living Australia 15/9/2016)



**Known Reserves**

Reserved in the Cape Portland Private Sanctuary, The Steppes State Reserve, The Steppes Conservation Area, Five Mile Bluff Conservation Area, Boobyalla Conservation Area and the Township Lagoon Nature Reserve. It also occurs on five private properties in areas covered by a conservation covenant under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

**Tasmanian Distribution**  
(Natural Values Atlas May 2015)



**Cite as:**

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Calocephalus lacteus (milky beautyheads)*. 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.