

# *Cullen microcephalum*



*Cullen microcephalum*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen

**FAMILY:** FABACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Cullen microcephalum*,  
(Rchb. ex Kunze) J.W.Grimes, *Muelleria* 9: 195  
(1996)

**COMMON NAME:** dusky scurfpea

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

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



## Description

A perennial herb with a woody underground stem (rhizome). **Stems:** The stems are straggling or sloping upward (between 30-60 cm long). **Leaves:** The leaves have long stalks with small outgrowths at the base (stipules) and are divided into three parts. The upper leaves are lance-shaped with a pointed tip (between 2-5 cm long). The lower leaves are broader and smaller. All have whole margins and are either hairless or with sparsely scattered hairs. **Flowers:** The small rose coloured pea flowers are clustered in groups of 1-3, each cluster has a hairy, oily, leaf-like structure (bract) at the base. The flowers are arranged in dense oval or cylindrical spikes on stalks that arise from the axils (where the stem meets the leaf). The outermost whorl of floral parts (sepals) are fused together and covered with white or black silky hairs. Flowering occurs from November to April (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The pod is small, oval, blackish and covered with minute oily, rough outgrowths (description from Curtis & Morris 1975). Herbarium specimens have been collected from December to January. **This species was previously known as *Psoralea adscendens*. No other species of *Cullen* occur in Tasmania.**

## Ecology and Management

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

## Conservation Status Assessment

*Cullen microcephalum* may warrant uplisting though more information may be required for a meaningful reassessment.

**Further Information**

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.

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

*Following updated 21/9/2016.*

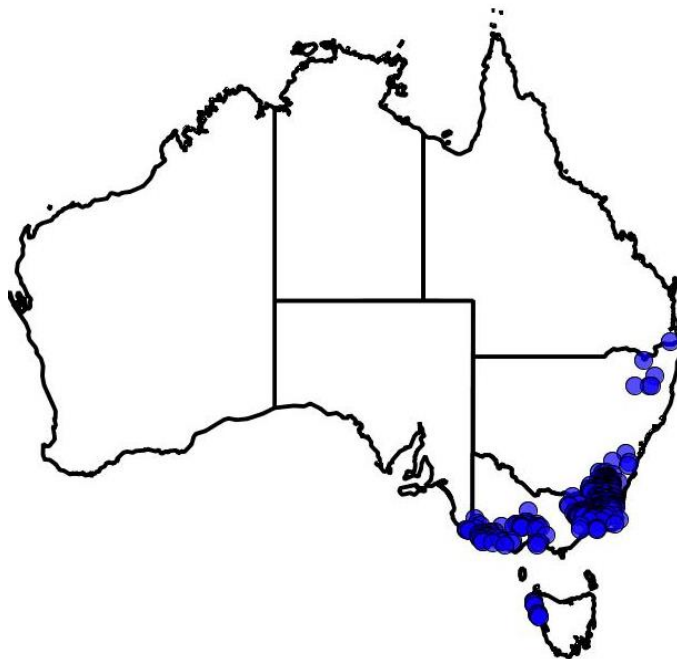
**Survey Time and Habitat Guide** (black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records)

<i>Cullen microcephalum</i>	Spring					Summer					Autumn					Winter								
dusky scurfpea	S	S	O	<del>O</del>	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	<del>A</del>	<del>A</del>	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A

- Flowering of this perennial herb occurs from November to April (Flora of Victoria). Herbarium specimens from Tasmania have been collected from December to January, and observations have been made from late October to March. No other species of *Cullen* occur in Tasmania.
- In Tasmania, *Cullen microcephalum* inhabits well-drained rocky areas (usually amongst dense windswept coastal heath/scrub) and the salt spray zone (then often amongst open grassland and scrub patches), most often within a few hundred metres of the coast.

**Distribution**

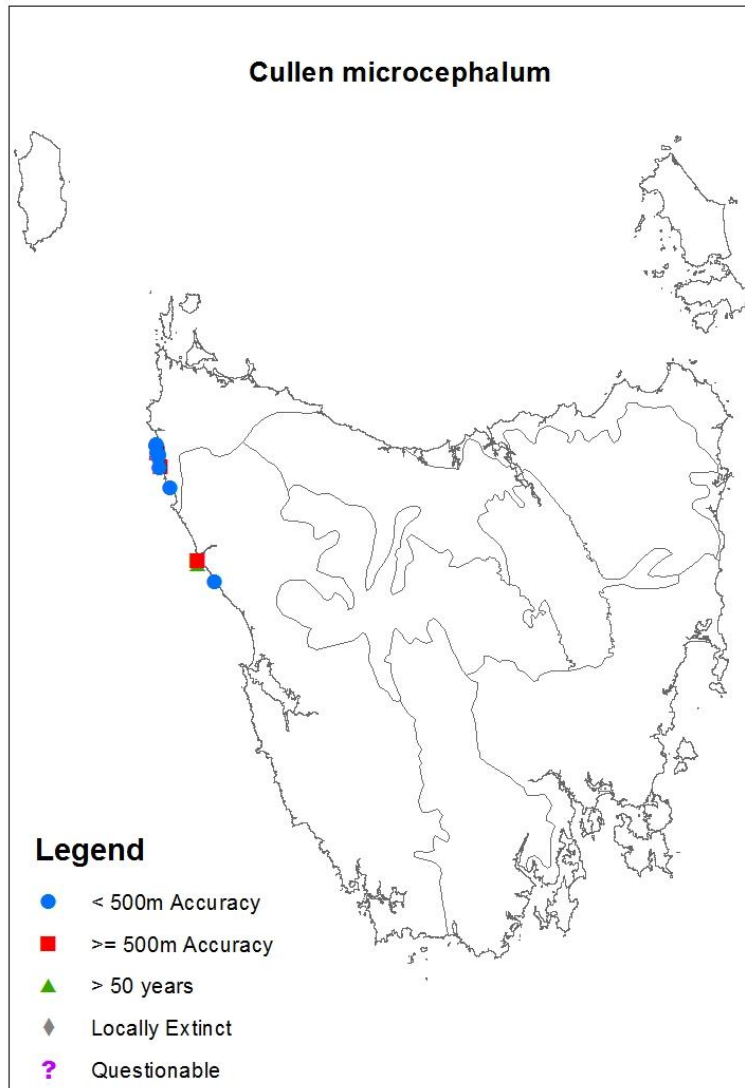
(Atlas of Living Australia 21/9/2016)



**Known Reserves**

Reserved in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area and Four Mile Beach Regional Reserve.

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



**Cite as:**

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Cullen microcephalum (dusky scurfpea)*. 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.