

Epacris curtisiae



Epacris curtisiae. R. Schahinger.

FAMILY: EPACRIDACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Epacris curtisiae*, Jarman, *Pap. & Proc. Roy. Soc. Tasmania*. 122: 115 (1988)

COMMON NAME: northwest heath

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (EPBC Act) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (TSP Act) rare

Description

A shrub with one to several erect and slender stems (between 0.5-2 metres tall). **Stems:** The older stems are rough and have raised scars where leaves have fallen. **Leaves:** The leaves are stalked, flat or slightly concave, thick and taper to a point. They have a narrow, transparent margin and measure between 3-6 mm long and 2.5-4.5 mm wide. The upper leaf surface is hairless except for some short hairs that form a small triangle at the base. The lower leaf surface is completely hairless. **Flowers:** The white flowers are solitary, crowded and arranged in short, leafy heads (between 1-5 cm long) at the ends of the top branches. There are between 9-12 leaf-like structures associated with the flowers (1-3.5 mm long) that are often tinged with pink. The petals form a tube that is cylindrical or funnel shaped. **Fruit:** The fruit is a small capsule about 2mm long and containing numerous tiny seeds (description from Jarman 1988).

Ecology and Management

Epacris curtisiae recruits from a soil-stored seedbank after fire and other gap-forming disturbance. It can also resprout from lignotubers after damage and regenerate by suckering. Root rot (*Phytophthora cinnamoni*) is a threat to this species (TPLUC 1996).

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 *Epacris curtisiae*.

Further Information

- Jarman, SJ 1988, '*Epacris curtisiae*, a new species from North Western Tasmania, *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, Vol.122 (2).

- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.

Preceding text last modified 13/8/2003.

Following updated 22/9/2016.

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>Epacris curtisiae</i>	Spring				Summer				Autumn				Winter													
northwest heath	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	J	J	A	A

- Flowering of this woody shrub is from August to October though herbarium specimens have been collected through most of the year. Flowers aid detection and identification, though the growth form and leaf characteristics also allow *Epacris curtisiae* to be separated from other potentially co-occurring *Epacris* species.
- The species occurs in peaty soils on gently undulating terrain in association with wet heathlands and scrub in the northwest in altitudes below 300 m.

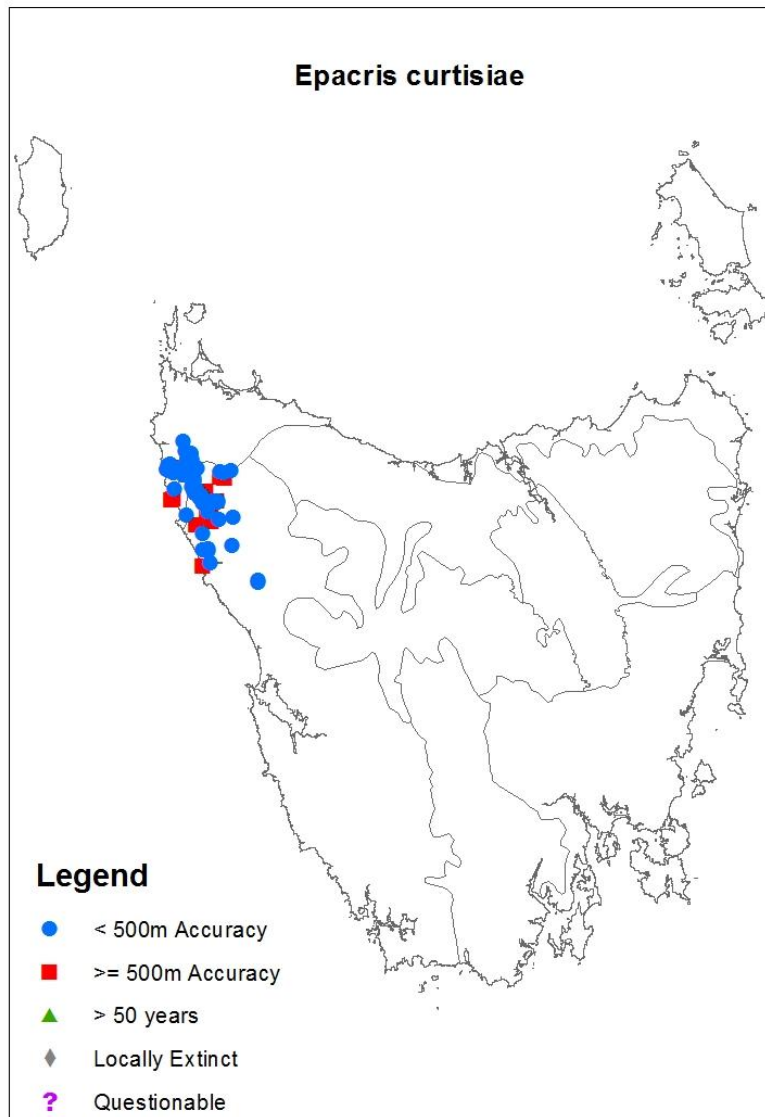
Distribution

This species is endemic to Tasmania.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area, Donaldson River Nature Recreation Area, Sumac Regional Reserve and the Meredith Range Regional Reserve.

Tasmanian Distribution
(Natural Values Atlas May 2015)



Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Epacris curtisiae (northwest heath)*. 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.