

Eutaxia microphylla



Eutaxia microphylla. Photographs H&A Wapstra.

FAMILY: FABACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Eutaxia microphylla*,
(R.Br.) C.H.Wright & Dewar, *Johnson's Gard.*
Dict. 1052 (1894)

COMMON NAME: spiny bushpea

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A prostrate, spreading, much branched shrub between 1-1.5 metres high. **Leaves:** The leaves are between 1.5-5 mm long and 0.5-1 mm wide, blunt tipped and incurved. They are arranged in alternating, opposite pairs along the stem. **Flowers:** The pea-flowers are either entirely yellow or yellow with red veining (the lowest petal is deep red). They are approximately 5 mm long, shortly stalked and solitary or in pairs in the leaf axils (where the stem meets the leaf). Flowering occurs in spring. **Fruit:** The fruit is a hairy long, stalked capsule approximately 5 mm long and containing 1-2 dark brown seeds (Lynch 1993). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from September to January. **This species was previously known as *Eutaxia microphylla* var. *microphylla*.**

Key Sites and Populations

There are 12 known populations with an estimated 2000 individual plants (Lynch 1993). This species occurs in small populations in the south-east and north-east, with the most extensive and abundant populations occurring on Flinders Island (Curtis & Morris 1975, Lynch 1993). The 'best' population is reported to occur on steep slopes on the southern part of Prime Seal Island (Prime Seal Island Management Report Draft 2002).



Ecology and Management

This species is presumed to be fire sensitive. Regeneration is from seed (Lynch 1993). Bees are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Eutaxia microphylla*.

Further Information

- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Lynch, AJJ 1993, *Conservation Biology and Management of 16 Rare or Threatened FABACEAE Species in Tasmania*, Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program Project No. 4, Parks & Wildlife Service, Hobart.
- Woolcock, D 1991, *A Field Guide to Native Peaflowers of Victoria and Southeastern Australia*, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, NSW.

Preceding text last modified 15/8/2003.

Following updated 26/10/2016.

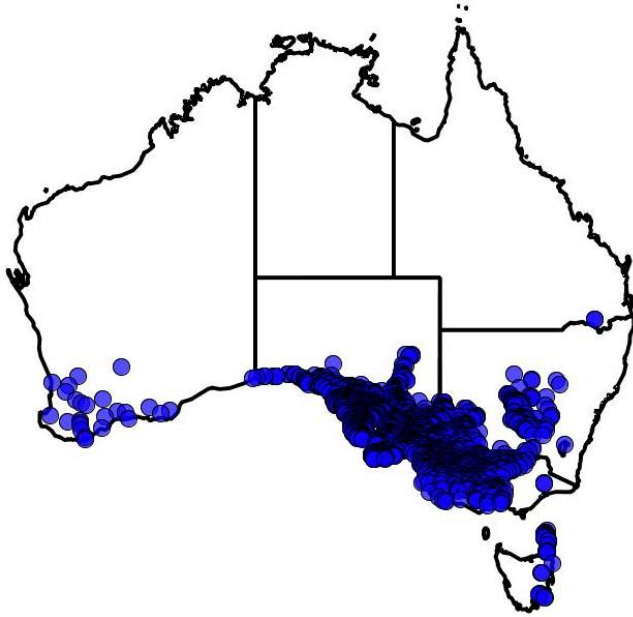
Survey Time and Habitat Guide (*black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records*)

<i>Eutaxia microphylla</i>	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
spiny bushpea	S S O O N N D D J	J J F F M M A A M M	J J J J A A	

- The presence of flowers will aid detection of this prostrate, spreading, much branched distinctive shrub. Flowering occurs in spring. Most herbarium specimens have been collected from September to January.
- On Flinders Island, *Eutaxia microphylla* mainly occurs in windswept coastal heathland on calcarenite. On mainland Tasmania, the species usually occurs in low open coastal shrubbery and on cliff edges (various substrates). There is an apparent outlier that occurs in dense roadside grass (mainly *Themeda triandra*) and *Acacia dealbata* (silver wattle) heathy scrub along the Esk Main Road.

Distribution

(Atlas of Living Australia 26/10/2016)

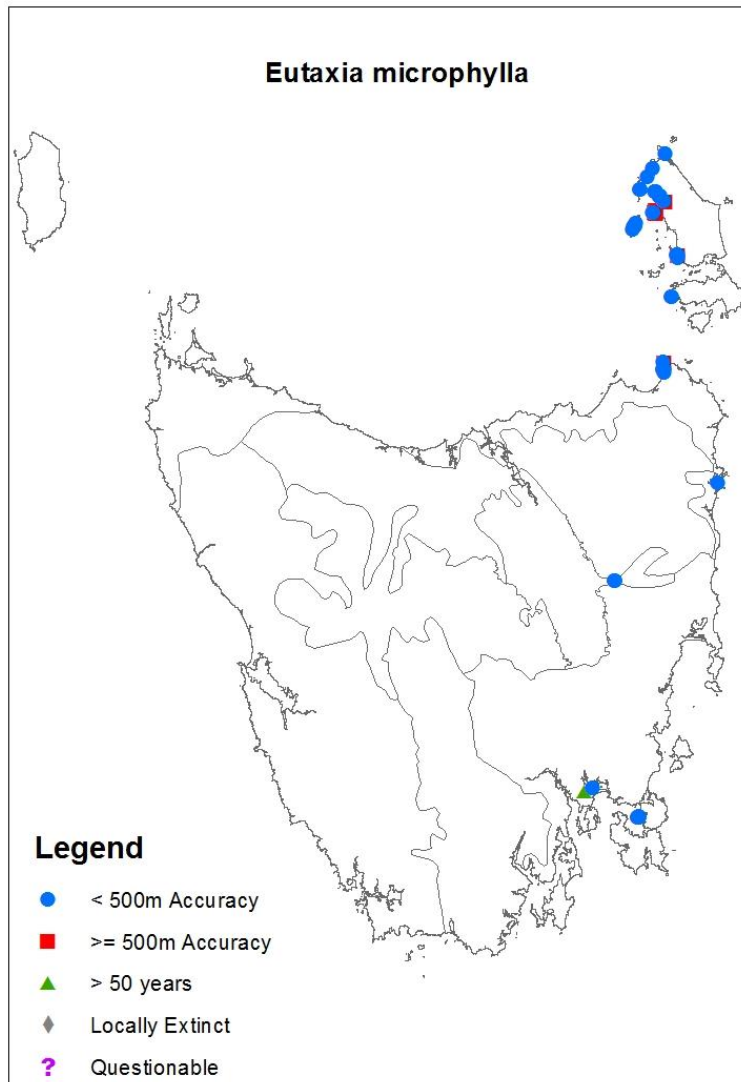


Known Reserves

Reserved in the Strzelecki National Park, Boobyalla Conservation Area, Bun Beetons Point Conservation Area, Chronicle Point Conservation Area, Darling Range Conservation Area, Prime Seal Island Conservation Area, Settlement Point Conservation Area, Cape Portland Conservation Area, Cape Portland Private Sanctuary, Emita Nature Recreation Area and Killiecrankie Nature Recreation Area. It also occurs on one private property in an area 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 Eutaxia microphylla (spiny bushpea)*. 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.