

# *Hovea tasmanica*



*Hovea tasmanica*.  
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

**FAMILY:** FABACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Hovea tasmanica*,  
I.Thomps. & J.H.Ross, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 14: 68  
(2001)

**COMMON NAME:** rockfield purplepea

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

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

## Description

A spindly, erect shrub that grows to approximately 3 metres in height. **Leaves:** The leaves are stalked and between 1.5-5 cm long and 4-7 mm wide. They are narrow-oblong in shape and weakly to moderately arched. The margins can be almost flat or curved back towards the underside of the leaf. The upper leaf surface is green and glossy with a dense line of curly hairs along the midrib. The lower surface is completely covered with deep cream or orange-tan hairs that become grey with age. **Flowers:** The pea flowers are deep mauve in colour and arranged together in groups of 2 or 3. Flowering occurs from September to October. **Fruit:** The fruit is a pod that is approximately 10 mm long. The pod is covered with pale hairs. Fruit mature from November to January. The brown seeds are approximately 5 mm long and 3 mm wide. **Confusing species:** This species can be confused with *Hovea corrickiae* in non-flowering periods, however the two can be readily separated by difference in habit. *Hovea tasmanica* is a rather 'untidy', spindle and erect shrub to approximately 3 m and *Hovea corrickiae* is a neater, denser plant to approximately 5 m (description from R. Schahinger pers. comm. 2001, Thompson 2001). **This species was previously known as *Hovea lanceolata* (sensu Census 1999). *Hovea longifolia* (sensu Curtis & Morris 1975) was split into *Hovea tasmanica* and *Hovea montana*.**

## Ecology and Management

Studies on another *Hovea* (*Hovea corrickiae*) indicate that the habitat is frequently burnt by cool fires and regeneration of the species appears to be from soil stored seed. However, fire is not required for the maintenance of the species (Lynch 1993). The majority of the populations are small, containing approximately 20 individuals. Bees are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

**Further Information**

- 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.
- Thompson, R 2001, Morphometric Analysis and Revision of Eastern Australian *Hovea* (Brongniartieae-Fabaceae), *Australian Systematic Botany*, Vol.14, pp.1-99.

***Preceding text last modified 4/4/2004.***

***Following updated 8/11/2016.***

**Conservation Status Assessment**

*Hovea tasmanica* was listed as rare on schedules of the Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act in 2004, meeting criterion (A) r2 occupying 20 or less 20 x 20 km Australian Metric Grid squares. A reassessment of the conservation status of the species is warranted given the increased number of known locations for the species from 15 to about 50 since listing, though the species may still qualify for listing because of risks associated with having a low number of mature individuals in total.

**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>Hovea tasmanica</i>	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter								
rockfield purplepea	S S O O N N D D J J F F M M A A M M J J J J A A											

- This medium to tall, spindly, erect shrub can be detected at any time of the year and can be identified by vegetative characters including form and colour of leaves. Flowering occurs from September to October.
- *Hovea tasmanica* is usually found on dry, rocky ridges or slopes (mostly dolerite) in forest and riverine scrub.

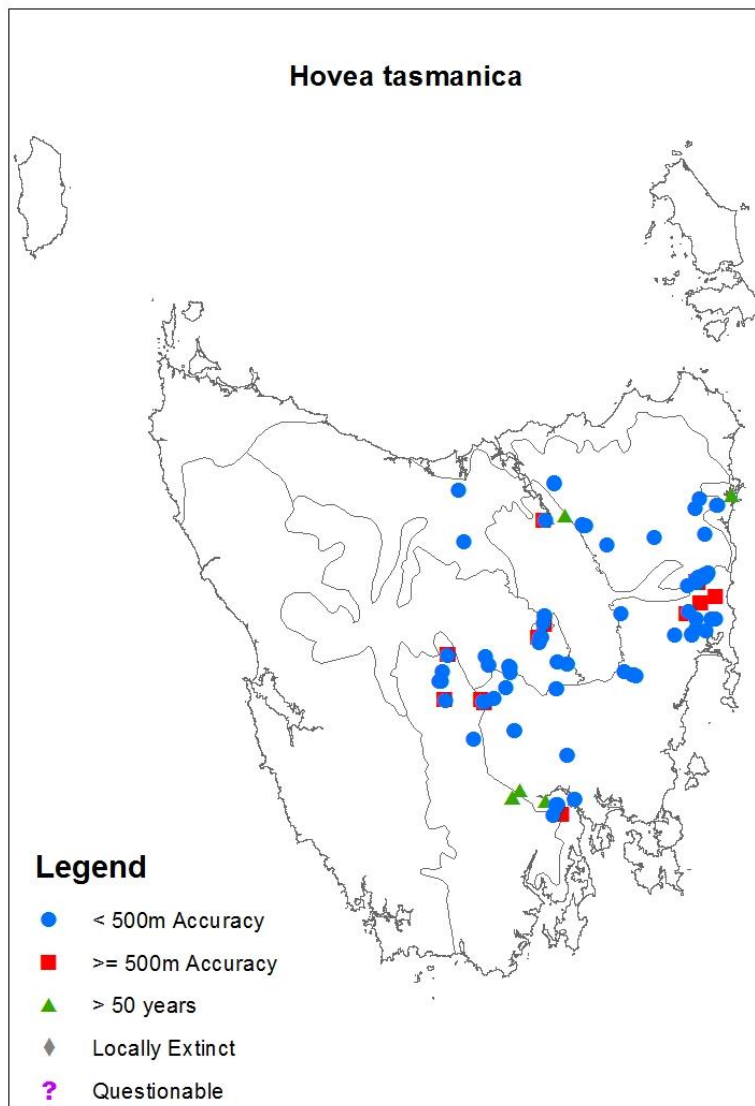
**Distribution**

This species is endemic to Tasmania.

**Known Reserves**

Reserved in the Wye River State Reserve, Badger Spur Conservation Area, Devils Den Conservation Area, Exe Rivulet Conservation Area, Ouse River Conservation Area, Wentworth Creek Conservation Area, Wellington Park, Meehan Range Nature Recreation Area, Apslawn Regional Reserve, Dickies Ridge Regional Reserve, Long Ridge Regional Reserve, Mount Puzzler Regional Reserve and Swan River Regional Reserve. It also occurs on five private property in areas covered by conservation covenants under the *Tasmanian Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

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



**Cite as:**

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Hovea tasmanica (rockfield purplepea)*. 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.