

Argyrotegium poliochlorum



All images by Richard Schahinger

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Argyrotegium poliochlorum* (N.G. Walsh) J.M. Ward & Breitw., *N.Z. J. Bot.* 41: 609 (2003)

COMMON NAME: greycotton leaf

COMMONWEALTH STATUS (EPBC Act): Not Listed

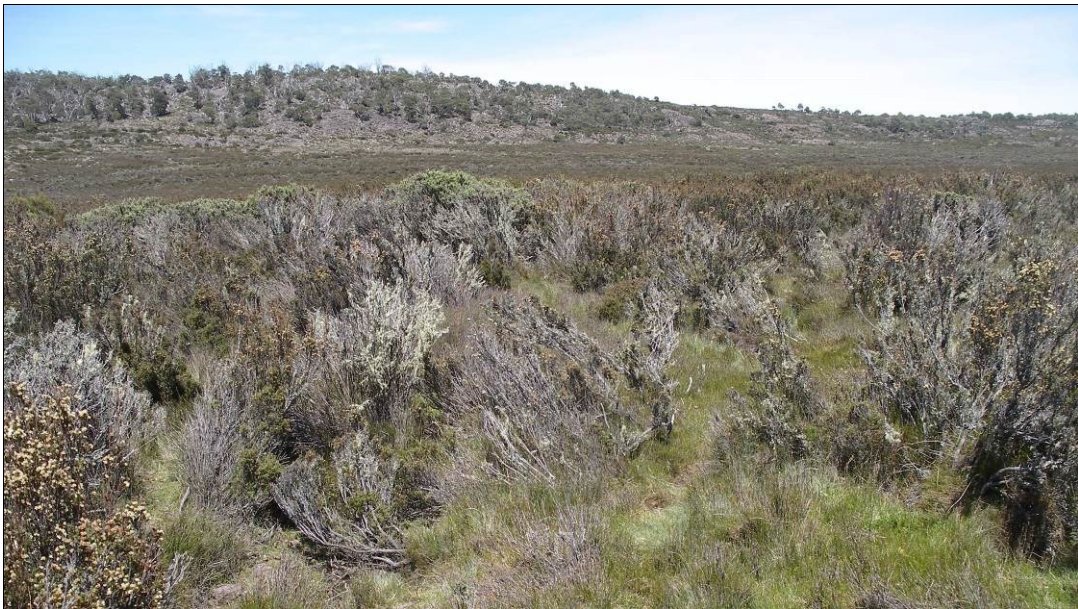
TASMANIAN STATUS (TSP Act): rare

Description

Argyrotegium poliochlorum is a rhizomatous perennial herb, sometimes forming mats. Leaves mostly basal, crowded towards the branch-tips, narrow-oblongate or spatulate, with a petiole-like base more-or-less equal to the broader 'blade', 1.5 to 3.5 (to 5) cm long overall, 1.5 to 4 (to 6) mm wide, both surfaces grey-green with moderately dense, appressed cottony hairs. Flowering stems erect, 4 to 12 cm high (to 20 cm in fruit), with c. 6 to 12 reduced leaves. Inflorescence a terminal cluster, elongating with maturity. Capitula 3 to 5 (to 7), pedunculate, subtended by a reduced leaf, cylindrical; inner bracts oblong, 5 to 6.5 mm long, obtuse at apex, usually with a reddish band just below the straw-coloured tip; bisexual florets 3 to 7. Cypselas glabrous, 1.4 to 1.6 mm long. Flowers: December to February. (Description from Walsh 1999.) **Confusing species:** Distinguished from *Argyrotegium fordianum* by the fewer, narrower capitula, and the grey-green rather than silvery leaves. Two other species of *Argyrotegium* are known in Tasmania, *A. mackayi* and *A. nitidulum*: both are mat-forming perennials with silvery-white to yellowish leaves, and inflorescences consisting of a (mostly) single capitulum.

Distribution and Habitat

Argyrotegium poliochlorum occurs in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania (Walsh 1999). In Tasmania it has been recorded from the Vale of Belvoir, Cradle Mountain and Lake Augusta areas, where it typically grows in grassland, grassy sedgeland or subalpine heath with a mix of sedges, rushes and grasses at ground level (associated species may include *Richea acerosa*, *Empodisma minus*, *Baloskion australe* and *Poa* spp.). Records in Tasmania are in the range 800 to 1200 metres above sea level.



Plates 1–3. *Argyrotegium poliochlorum*: habit & habitat near First Lagoon
(images by Richard Schahinger)

Key Sites and Populations

Cradle Mountain, Lake Augusta–Double Lagoon, Vale of Belvoir.

Known Reserves

Black Bluff Nature Recreation Area, Central Plateau Conservation Area, Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, Vale of Belvoir Conservation Area. The species also occurs on two private properties covered by perpetual covenants under the *Tasmanian Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

Ecology and Management

There is little information as to the species' ecological requirements in Tasmania. Surveys of known sites are required to inform management, including the relative

impacts of threatening processes (if any), the species' response to disturbance such as fire and grazing, as well as seed viability, germination, dormancy and longevity.

Conservation Status Assessment

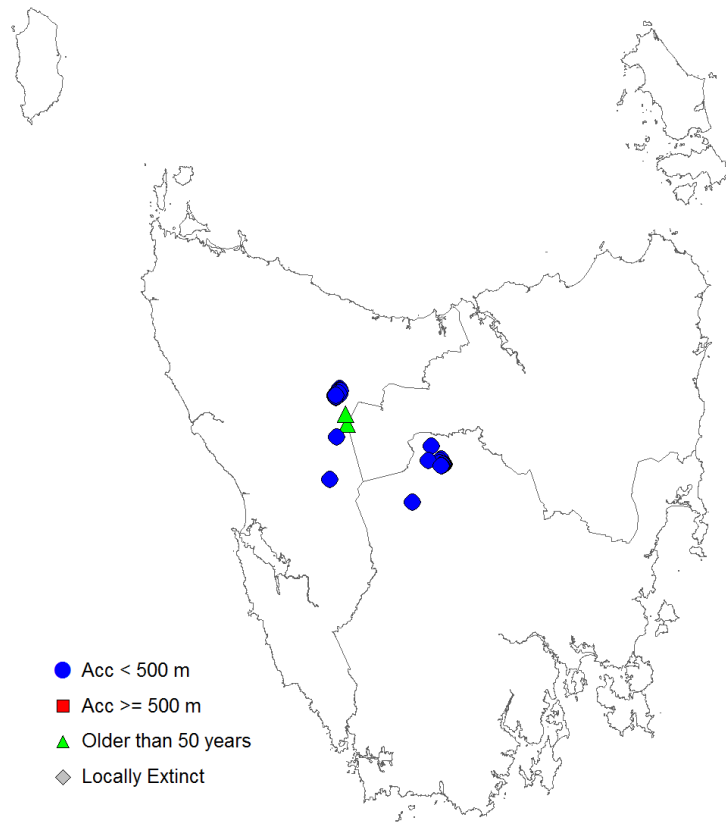
Argyrotegium poliochlorum was listed as rare on the original schedules of the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (under the name *Gnaphalium supinum*), at which time it was known from just six collections (with no population information). The species has since been found to be relatively common in the Vale of Belvoir (2009) and the Lake Augusta to Double Lagoon areas (2018), and it is considered highly likely that it is more widespread.

Further Information

- Curtis, W.M. (1963). *The Student's Flora of Tasmania. Part 2*. Government Printer, Tasmania.
- Walsh, N.G. (1999). New Species in Asteraceae from the Subalps of Southeastern Australia'. *Muelleria* 12 (2): 223–228.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Section records, January 2018)



1:25 000 Map sheets

Ada, Cradle, Dome, Ina, Lea, Pencil Pine, Pillans, Split Rock, Will.

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Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2018). *Notesheet for Argyrotegium poliochlorum (greygreen cottonleaf)*. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.

View

www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists

Contact details

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Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.