

Allocasuarina crassa



FAMILY: CASUARINACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Allocasuarina crassa*,
L.A.S. Johnson, *Fl. Australia* 3:194 (1989)

COMMON NAME: Cape Pillar sheoak

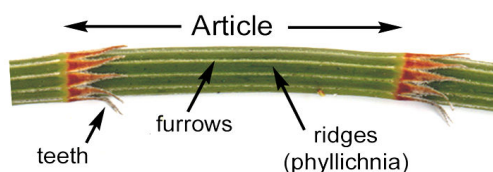
COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Allocasuarina crassa. R. Schahinger.

Description

Allocasuarina species can be trees or shrubs that are usually much branched with slender, green and jointed branchlets. They have leaves in whorls and the tips are free and usually brown resembling teeth. *Allocasuarina crassa* can range in form from a prostrate shrub through to a 13-14 m high tree depending on habitat. The articles – see illustration below – are 10-26 mm long and 1.2-4 mm in diameter, with densely pubescent furrows. There are usually between 6-9 teeth that are 1-4 mm long and spreading to slightly recurved. The bark of *Allocasuarina crassa* tends to be smooth when young, becoming flaky with increasing age (Schahinger 2003).



Allocasuarina crassa. R. Schahinger.



Distribution and Habitat

Allocasuarina crassa is endemic to Tasmania, being restricted to Tasman Island and the Cape Pillar area of the Tasman Peninsula. The species has a linear extent of 10 km and extent of occurrence of about 20 km². It is found growing on dolerite soils and can be encountered in both damp eucalypt forest and cliff-top heathland and scrub. *Allocasuarina crassa* may form almost monotypic scrubs on the Cape Pillar plateau given a prolonged fire-free period (Schahinger 2003).

Key Sites and Populations

Allocasuarina crassa occurs patchily from Arthurs Peak to Cape Pillar, and is also known from the south-western corner of the Tasman Island plateau. There are in excess of 100,000 mature individuals (Schahinger 2003).

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Tasman National Park.

Ecology and Management

The primary threat to this species is an inappropriate fire regime. The *Allocasuarina crassa* stands tend to be even-aged, and although *Allocasuarina crassa* stores seed in cones until they are burnt, if fire should burn the population once and then again before the new plants have time to fruit, the species may be eliminated. Destruction of the entire population is considered unlikely, however, as the rugged nature of the dolerite cliff-faces provides numerous niches for *Allocasuarina crassa* to survive. A fire management plan is being prepared for the Tasman National Park.

Barker (1994) has demonstrated that *Allocasuarina crassa* is sensitive to the introduced soil-borne pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in laboratory conditions. A wash-down station has been established along the Cape Pillar walking track at Lunchtime Creek to limit the spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* from known infestations to the Cape proper, while monitoring continues for the presence of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

Wind is the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

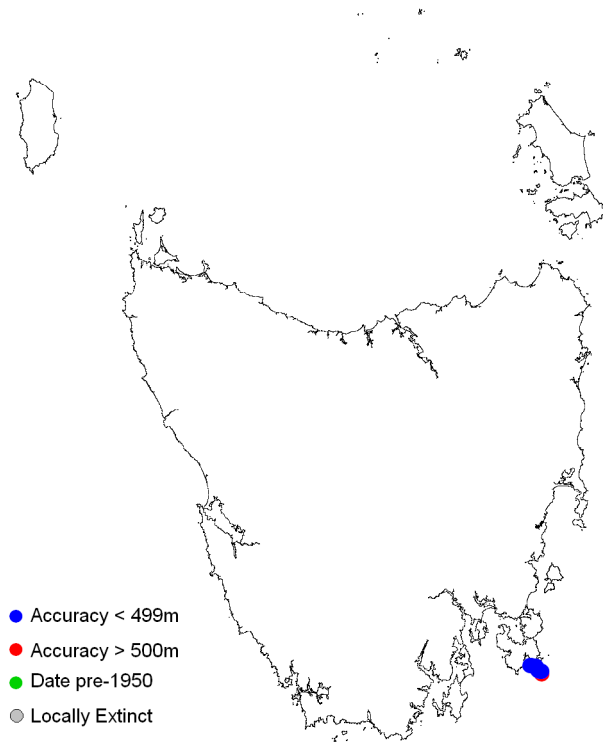
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Allocasuarina crassa*.

Further Information

- Barker, PCJ 1994, *Phytophthora cinnamomi: The Susceptibility and Management of Selected Tasmanian Rare Species*, Forestry Tasmania & Australian Nature Conservation Agency, Hobart.
- Brown, MJ & Duncan, F 1989, *The Vegetation of Tasman Peninsula*, in Smith SJ (Ed): *Is History Enough? Past, Present and Future use of the Resources of Tasman Peninsula*. Royal Society of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Schahinger, RS 2003, *Allocasuarina crassa* L. Johnson (Casuarinaceae): a revised description, with notes on distribution & habitat, *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania* vol.138, pp. 101-106.

Tasmanian Distribution

(From Natural Values Atlas records, July 2008)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Tasman.

Date last modified: 23/7/2008

View

<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries and Water, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 6233 6556; fax (03) 6233 3477.

Permit

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