

Aphelia gracilis



Aphelia gracilis.
Threatened Species Unit.

FAMILY: CENTROLEPIDACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Aphelia gracilis*,
Sonder, *Linnaea* 28: 227 (1856)

COMMON NAME: slender fanwort

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A tiny, tufted annual herb with leafless flower stalks between 20-40 mm tall. These stalks are often pale brownish-pink. **Leaves:** The leaves are hairless and clustered at the base of the stem. They are slender, thread like and are at least as long (25 mm) but not longer than the flower stalks. **Flowers:** The flower spike is less than 4 mm and turned to one side with 6-8 blunt bracts (units of the flowerhead), the lowest bract is usually longer. This species flowers from October through to November. **Seed:** The seed is golden brown with pointed ends and are approximately 1mm long and contained within each bract (description from Curtis & Morris 1994, Walsh & Entwistle 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected from October to December.

Distribution and Habitat

In mainland Australia this species occurs in Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. In Tasmania, *Aphelia gracilis* inhabits damp, sandy ground and wet places in the Midlands and north-east of the State. In Victoria it is reported from moist tea-tree heath and swamp scrub (Curtis & Morris 1994).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include, Epping, Bridport, the South Esk River, Cressy, George Town, Low Head and Powranna.

Known Reserves

This species is reserved in the Franklin Rivulet Forest Reserve, Foochow Conservation Area, the Tom Gibson Nature reserve (Epping Forest), Mount William National Park and the Trevallyn Nature Recreation Area near Launceston.

Ecology and Management

The major impacts that adversely affect *Aphelia gracilis* include forest clearing and weed invasion. This species persists through disturbance such as stock grazing and trampling. Stock activity may reduce weed competition (TPLUC 1996).

Conservation Status Assessment

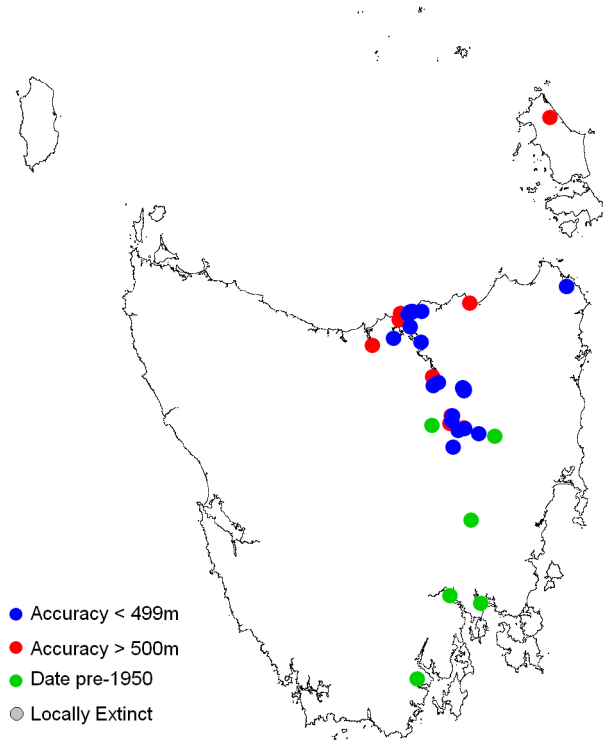
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Aphelia gracilis*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.
- Walsh, NG & Entwistle, TJ eds 1994, *Flora of Victoria*, Volume 2, Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(From Natural Values Atlas Records, July 2008)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Beaconsfield, Blessington, Bell Bay, Bridport, Carlton, Cleveland, Conara, Delmont, Hanleth, Harford, Launceston, Low Head, Lilydale, Musselroe, New Norfolk, Nile, Oatlands, Prospect, Raminea, Weymouth, Wingaroo.

Date last modified: 28/7/2008

View

<http://www.dpiw.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.