

Aphelia pumilio



Aphelia pumilio. H & A Wapstra.

FAMILY: CENTROLEPIDACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Aphelia pumilio*,
F.Muell. ex Sonder, *Linnaea* 28: 226 (1856)

COMMON NAME: dwarf fanwort

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A tiny annual plant between 10–30 mm tall. **Leaves:** The leaves are very narrow and clustered at the base of the stem (growing up to 20 mm long). The leaves are generally shorter than or equalling the floral stalk in length. **Flowers:** The flower spike is 4–6 mm long with 8–16 tapering bracts (units of the flower head), which are leaf-like and widely spread — the two lowest bracts are the longest. The species flowers between October and November. **Seed:** The seed is 1–2 mm long and is brown and roughly oval-shaped with dark brown pointed ends. The seeds are contained within each bract (description from Curtis & Morris 1994; Walsh & Entwisle 1994).

Distribution and Habitat

In mainland Australia *Aphelia pumilio* occurs in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania the species is restricted to the northern Midlands and Tamar region, where it is found growing in damp conditions, dry open grassland (*Themeda*) and *Eucalyptus viminalis*/*Eucalyptus amygdalina* dry sclerophyll forest (Curtis & Morris 1994; L. Gilfedder, pers. comm.).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Epping Forest, Royal George, Perth, the Trevallyn State Recreation Area, Forest Vale, Longford and Campbell Town.

Known Reserves

This species is reserved in Forest Vale State Reserve, Tom Gibson Nature Reserve, and Trevallyn Nature Recreation Area.

Ecology and Management

Aphelia pumilio requires bare ground, as it is very sensitive to competition from other plant species. Forest clearing has an adverse impact on this species, although it can persist through disturbance from general grazing and fire (TPLUC 1996).

Conservation Status Assessment

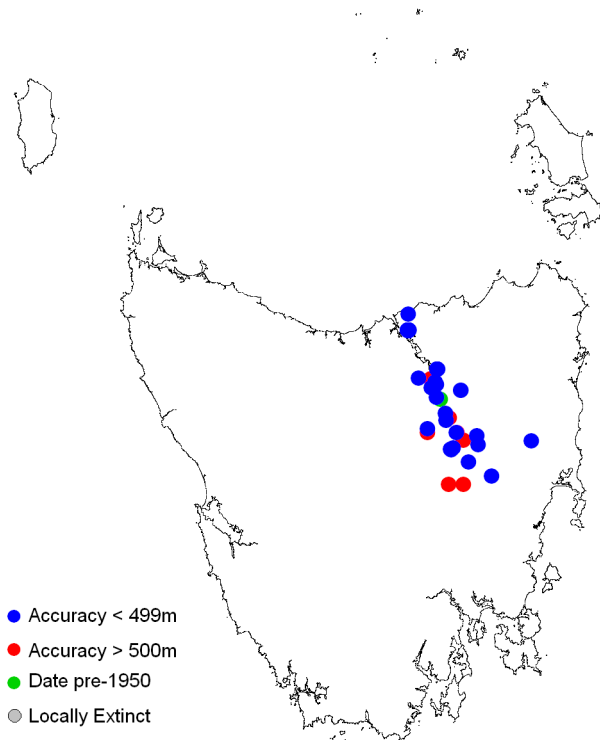
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Aphelia pumilio*.

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 & Entwisle, 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

Bell Bay, Blessington, Bridgenorth, Cleveland, Conara, Cressy, Delmont, Diamond, Ellinthorp, Interlaken, Jacobs, Launceston, Longford, Low Head, Nile, Penny, Prospect, Ross, Roys.

Date last modified: 27/07/2008

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.