

Atriplex suberecta



Atriplex suberecta.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimens.

FAMILY: CHENOPODIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Atriplex suberecta*,
I. Verd., *Bothalia* 6: 418 (1954)

COMMON NAME: sprawling saltbush

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not
Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) vulnerable

Description

A sprawling herb that branches from the base and grows to approximately 60 cm tall.

Leaves: The leaves are thin and narrow (however in some habitats they can be broader), between 15-30 mm long and with coarse teeth along the margins and short petioles (stalks that attach the leaf to the main stem). The upper leaf surface is hairless and the bottom surface is somewhat scaly or flaky. **Flowers:** This species has separate male and female flowers that occur on the same plant (dioecious). The small pale green flowers are approximately 2 mm wide. The male flowers are in clusters and situated close to the top of the branch. The female flowers are in axillary clusters (where leaf attaches to stem). **Fruit:** A flattened, capsule approximately 5 x 5 mm and irregularly toothed on upper margin (description from Cunningham *et al.* 1992, Harris *et al.* 2001, Willis 1972). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from October to December.

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in New South Wales, South Australia and possibly Western Australia. It is also known from South Africa. In Tasmania, *Atriplex suberecta* is found on outer islands in the Furneaux Group and in the south. It occurs in a wide range of habitats on most soil types, including saline areas, but is most commonly found in disturbed areas (Cunningham *et al.* 1992, Harris *et al.* 2001).



Key Sites and Populations

The Furneaux Group provides several key populations including Beagle, Boxen, Little Chalky, Mile and Wybalenna Islands. The populations have been estimated to include approximately one hundred individuals (Harris *et al.* 2001).

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Big Green Island Nature Reserve, Chappell Islands Nature Reserve, the Mile Island Conservation Area and the Wybalenna Island Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

Atriplex suberecta has a tenuous hold on the outer islands of the Furneaux and is probably dispersed by ocean currents. This species persists where areas have become bare and worn from cattle trampling. It could be impacted upon by casual visitation, however fire is detrimental (Harris *et al.* 2001, S. Harris pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

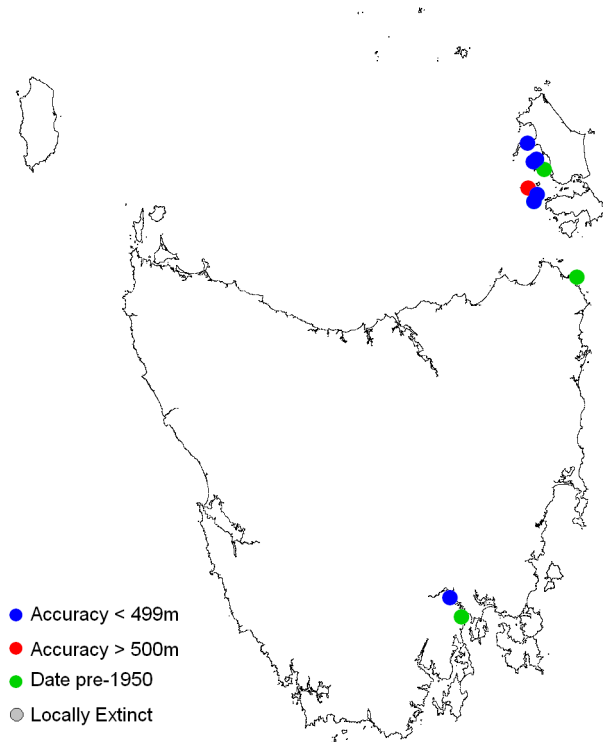
Atriplex suberecta may qualify as endangered because of the low number of individuals.

Further Information

- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Harris, S, Buchanan, A & Connolly, A 2001, *One Hundred Islands: The Flora of the Outer Furneaux*, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.
- Willis, JH 1972, *A Handbook of Plants in Victoria*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(From Natural Values Atlas Records, July 2008)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Badger, Naturaliste, New Norfolk, Taroona Whitemark, Wybalenna.

Date last modified: 4/08/2008.

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.