

Brachyscome perpusilla



All images by Richard Schahinger

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Brachyscome perpusilla* (Steetz) J.M.Black, *Fl. S.Austral.* 4: 587 (1929)

COMMON NAME: Tiny daisy

COMMONWEALTH STATUS (EPBC Act):
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS (TSP Act): rare

Description

Brachyscome perpusilla is an erect to ascending annual herb to 5 cm high. Its leaves are mostly pinnatisect, 0.5 to 1 cm long, upper half 3- or more lobed, lower half with 2 to 6 usually shorter lobes, base dilated. Compound flower-heads enclosed by bracts arranged in a single row, the bracts obovate or ovate, 2 to 3.4 mm long, glabrous or glandular-pubescent; ray florets white, ligules inconspicuous, 0.7 to 1.3 mm long. Fruit (cypsela) flat, obovate, about 2.5 mm long by 1.5 mm wide, uniformly brown, with wing-like margins, the margins with 8 to 17 lobes to 0.4 mm long, each lobe ending in an eglandular hair; pappus absent. (Description based on Harden (1992), Walsh & Entwisle (1999) and collections held at the Tasmanian Herbarium; plants in Victoria and New South Wales are described as being up to 10 to 12 cm high, with leaves up to 2.5 to 3 cm long). In Tasmania plants have been observed in flower from late September to late October.

Distribution and Habitat

On mainland Australia *Brachyscome perpusilla* occurs in New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia (Walsh & Entwisle 1999). In Tasmania the species has been collected from five locations: Hobart and Elderslie in the south (the latter in 2013, the former at Queens Domain in 1901, though only determined to be *B. perpusilla* in 1990), Waterhouse in the northeast (Croppies Point & One Tree Hill in 1983, Hardwickes Hill in 1995), Flinders Island (near Mt Tanner in 1989) and the Midlands (Epping Forest in 2010/2012).

Brachyscome perpusilla occupies a diverse range of habitats on mainland Australia, ranging from eucalypt woodland to saltmarsh (Walsh & Entwisle 1999). In Tasmania the species has been recorded from shallow soils on Jurassic dolerite, Triassic sandstone and Devonian granite, ranging from rocky outcrops in the coastal zone to inland rock-plates; associated herbs may include *Angianthus preissianus*, *Calandrinia granulifera*, *Juncus capitatus*, *Millotia tenuifolia*, *Crassula* spp. and *Centrolepis* spp.,

while mosses and lichens are generally present. Surrounding vegetation at inland sites varies from *Allocasuarina verticillata* (drooping sheoak) forest to *Eucalyptus amygdalina* (black peppermint) woodland/forest.



Brachyscome perpusilla: habit & habitat at near Elderslie

Key Sites and Populations

Heathy Hills, Epping Forest, Mt Tanner, Waterhouse.

Known Reserves

Heathy Hills Nature Reserve, Tom Gibson Nature Reserve, Mt Tanner Nature Recreation Area, Waterhouse Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

As an annual species, the maintenance of populations is dependent upon seed stored in the thin layer of soil in its rock-plate habitat. The germination, growth and flowering of the species is likely to be reliant on the timing and intensity of autumn and winter rains, as well as the availability of bare ground, with the length of flowering dependent upon prevailing weather conditions. Insects are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

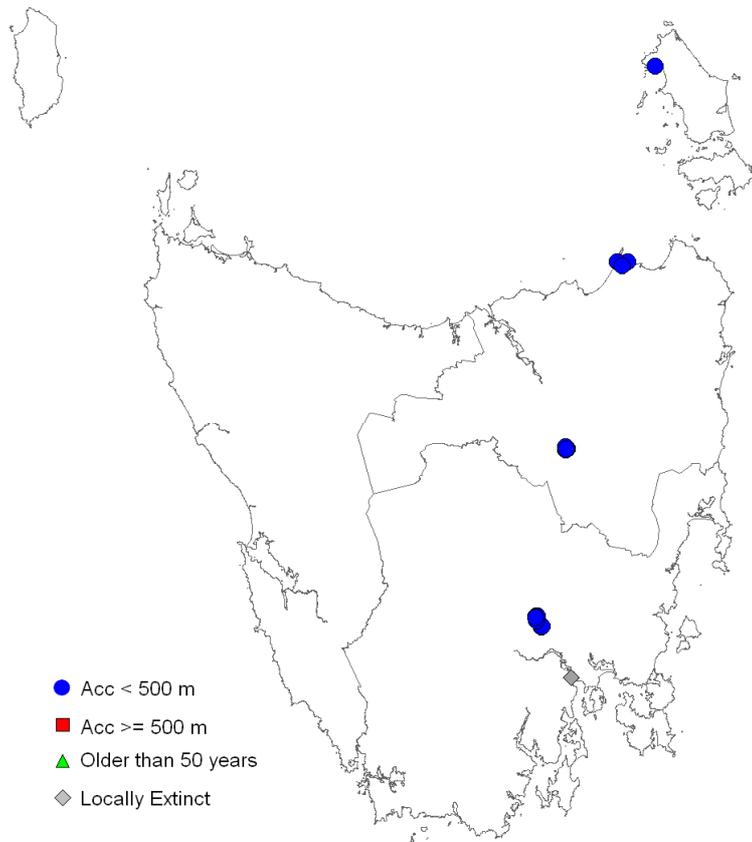
Brachyscome perpusilla may warrant up-listing on the TSP Act given that only five locations have been recorded in Tasmania, with one of those presumed to be extinct (Queens Domain, Hobart). However, surveys of all recorded sites (and nearby potential habitat) are required to determine their current status before a meaningful reassessment can be undertaken.

Further Information

- Harden, G.J. (1992). *Flora of New South Wales, Volume 3*. Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Sydney.
- Walsh, N.G. & Entwisle, T.J. (1999). *Flora of Victoria. Volume 4. Dicotyledons: Cornaceae to Asteraceae*. Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Section records, November 2013)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Cleveland, Elderslie, Hobart, Tanner, Waterhouse.

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View

<http://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.