

Bunodophoron notatum

FAMILY: SPHAEROPHORACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Bunodophoron notatum*,
(Tibell) Wedin, *Symb. Bot. Ups.* 31:1 (1995)

COMMON NAME: Lichen

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) Endangered

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

RFA STATUS: Priority species

ENDEMIC STATUS: Not Endemic

Description

A fruticose, tuft-forming lichen characterised by having terete, entangled lobes (Kantvilas, 2003). Fertile branches 4 to 7 (or sometimes up to 8.5) cm long, with the ultimate branches brittle when dry. Upper and lower surfaces of branches concolorous, pale yellow to yellowish green, smooth but often areolate to coarsely verrucose and deeply wrinkled to sparsely scrobiculate over the apothecia. Apothecia common, terminal, with the thalline receptacle hemispherical or conical and regularly tapering, 1.5 to 5.0 mm wide. Mazaedia exposed subapically to ventrally, partly enclosed by the thalline receptacle. Spores brownish grey to reddish brown, 9 to 16.5 µm in diameter. Pycnidia common in apices and along the lower side of terminal branchlets. Conidia 4.5 to 6.5 by 1.5 µm. (Wedin, 1995). **Confusing species:** *Bunodophoron ramuliferum* resembles this species, but differs in having more coralloid branches and smaller, more greyish ascospores (Flora of Australia, 2001).

Distribution and Habitat

Bunodophoron notatum is known from Tasmania, New South Wales and New Zealand (Flora of Australia, 2001). In Tasmania, *Bunodophoron notatum* is found in callidendrous rainforests or in mature mixed forest with a callidendrous rainforest understorey, on the mature, shaded tree trunks of *Nothofagus cunninghamii* (Kantvilas, 2003).

Key Sites and Populations

Bunodophoron notatum has been recorded from the following six sites within Tasmania. Those marked with an asterisk (*) are considered to be no longer extant (Kantvilas 2003):

- Mount Victoria in North East Tasmania (Mount Victoria Forest Reserve)
- On the Savage River Pipeline, in NW Tasmania (Savage River Pipeline Forest Reserve)

- In a patch of remnant rainforest on the West Coast, near Trial Harbour (State Forest)
- *A site 'near Weldborough' in NE Tasmania
- *Gould's Country in NE Tasmania
- *Belmont Road, in NW Tasmania (Deep Gully Forest Reserve)

Known Reserves

This species is reserved in the Mount Victoria Reserve and the Savage River Pipeline Forest Reserve. An occurrence in the now Deep Gully Forest Reserve is thought to be extinct (Kantvilas, 2003).

Ecology and Management

Available data indicates that *Bunodophoron notatum* occurs only in callidendrous rainforest or in mature mixed forest with a callidendrous rainforest understorey, and that the logging of these forests and the associated habitat loss are the primary threats to this species (Kantvilas, 2003). With the exception of the occurrences at Mount Victoria, Savage River Pipeline and near Trial Harbour on the West Coast, all of the other occurrences appear to have been lost to logging, both within State forests and on private property, as none of these populations have been able to be relocated despite targeted searches. Of the three extant sites only the Mount Victoria site and Savage River Pipeline sites are considered to be secure as the specimen from near Trial Harbour was found growing on a single very old *Nothofagus cunninghamii* in a patch of fragmented rainforest bordering on buttongrass plain. This site has clearly burnt in the past, and this lichen occurrence should be considered to be at risk of future burning or natural ageing and death of the host tree. The spread of myrtle wilt may also be a risk to the species.

Conservation Status Assessment

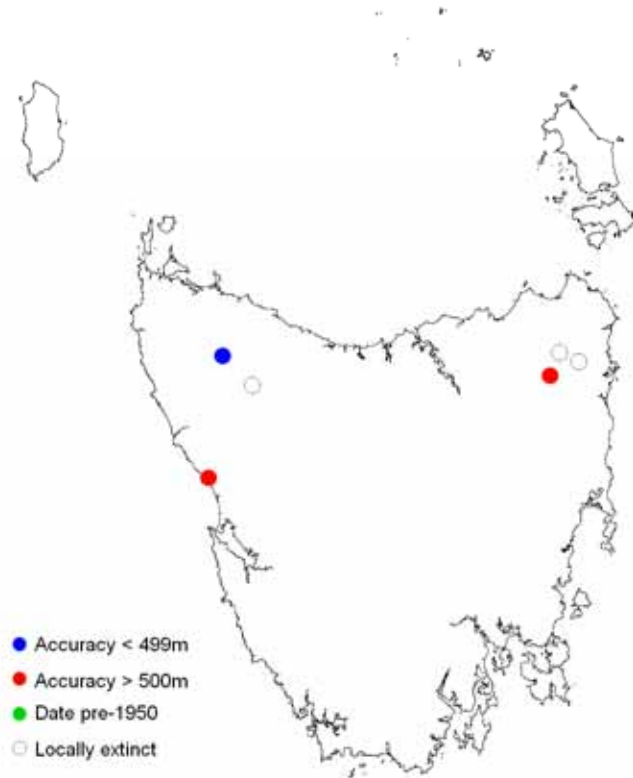
Bunodophoron notatum was first described in 1982. This species was listed as endangered under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* in January 2005.

Further Information

- Flora of Australia 2001. *Volume 58A - Lichens*. Australian Biological Resources Study/CSIRO Publishing.
- Kantvilas, G. 2003. *Bunodophoron notatum: Nomination for Listing or De-Listing of a Taxon of Flora or Fauna*. Threatened Species Scientific Advisory Committee, Hobart, Tasmania.
- Wedin, M 1995. The lichen family SPHAEROPHORACEAE. *Symbolae Botanicae Upsalienses*, 31:1.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Section records, July 2008)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Victoria, Ringarooma, Blue Tier, Waratah, Beryl, Trial.

Date last modified: 10/7/2008