

Centropappus brunonis



Image by Richard Schahinger

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Centropappus brunonis* Hook.f., *London J. Bot.* 6: 124 (1847)

COMMON NAME: tasmanian daisytree

NAME HISTORY: *Senecio centropappus*, *Brachyglottis brunonis*

COMMONWEALTH STATUS (EPBC Act): Not listed

TASMANIAN STATUS (TSP Act): rare

Description

Centropappus brunonis is a large shrub or small pyramidal tree to 8 m tall. Its branches are marked by prominent leaf-base scars. Leaves are broadly linear, 5 to 9 cm long, with bluntly pointed ends; they are crowded towards the ends of the branches, and are hairless, sticky to the touch and aromatic when crushed. Yellow 'daisy' flowers are arranged in terminal corymbose panicles; flowering occurs from December to February. The fruit is small and dry, with a fringe of hairs at the apex to aid in its dispersal by wind. Description from Curtis (1963).

Distribution and Habitat

Centropappus brunonis is endemic to southern Tasmania. The species is known from scattered colonies on the Wellington Range and Mt Dromedary, with a purported occurrence between these two regions at Mt Faulkner (North et al. 1998). It grows within shrubby woodland/forest dominated by *Eucalyptus coccifera* or *Eucalyptus urnigera* at higher altitudes, and *Eucalyptus delegatensis* at lower altitudes, typically on dolerite talus but also on poorly-drained sandstone shelves. Associated species may include *Richea dracophylla*, *Leptospermum lanigerum*, *Correa lawrenciana*, *Cyathodes glauca*, *Hakea lissosperma*, *Orites diversifolius*, *Ozothamnus antennaria*, *Telopea truncata*, *Gahnia grandis*, *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, *Polystichum proliferum* and *Blechnum wattsii*. The altitude range of known sites is 700 to 1050 metres above sea level, and the mean annual rainfall about 1200 mm.

Key Sites and Populations

Mount Wellington: southern and eastern flanks, slopes below Lost World, Tom Thumb–Knights Creek, Trestle Creek; Myrtle Forest–Collins Cap; Mount Dromedary.



Centropappus brunonis: foliage & inflorescence
(image by Greg Jordan)



Centropappus brunonis: habit
(image by Richard Schahinger)

Known Reserves

The vast majority of plants occur in Wellington Park, with numbers estimated to be in the low thousands, while Mount Dromedary Forest Reserve supports fewer than 100 plants. The only un-reserved occurrences are on State Forest to the north of Mount Dromedary, with 25 to 30 plants known from three discrete patches.

Ecology and Management

Fire is considered to be the key threat to *Centropappus brunonis*. As noted by AVK Environmental Management (2006), the species displays signs of pulse regeneration, but also evidence of failure to recolonise some burnt sites. The species' preferred wet forest and subalpine habitat has a relatively low fire frequency, though this has not necessarily been the case for the Wellington Range, with at least some stands in what may be considered fire refugia. Observations following a fire at Mt Dromedary in January 2003 indicate that adult plants are killed by fire, with post-fire recruits reaching maturity at an age of 5 to 6 years. However, the specific post-fire germination requirements of the species are unknown.

The fire management strategy for Wellington Park (AVK Environmental Management 2006), applicable over a 15-year timeframe, includes the following prescriptions:

- exclude fire from known populations until there is more information on its fire ecology;
- exclude fire by actively suppressing wildfires in the vicinity of known populations;
- monitor the recovery of known populations if burnt.

Plants close to the summit of Mt Dromedary appear to have been affected by drought during the 2000s, with surveys in July 2013 revealing a number of dead plants and the few remaining live ones with much-reduced canopies and doubts as to their capacity for recovery.

Insects are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston, pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

There is no immediate need for a reassessment of *Centropappus brunonis*.

Further Information

- AVK Environmental Management (2006). *Fire Management Strategy for Wellington Park*. Wellington Park Management Trust, Hobart.
- Curtis, W.M. (1963). *The Student's Flora of Tasmania, Part 2*. Government Printer, Hobart
- North, A., Johnson, K, Ziegler, K., Duncan, F, Hopkins, K., Ziegeler, D. & Watts, S. (1998). *Flora of Recommended Areas for Protection and Forest Reserves in Tasmania. Reserve reports: Volume 3*. Forest Practices Board, Forestry Tasmania, and Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania.

Survey Time and Habitat Guide (black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records)

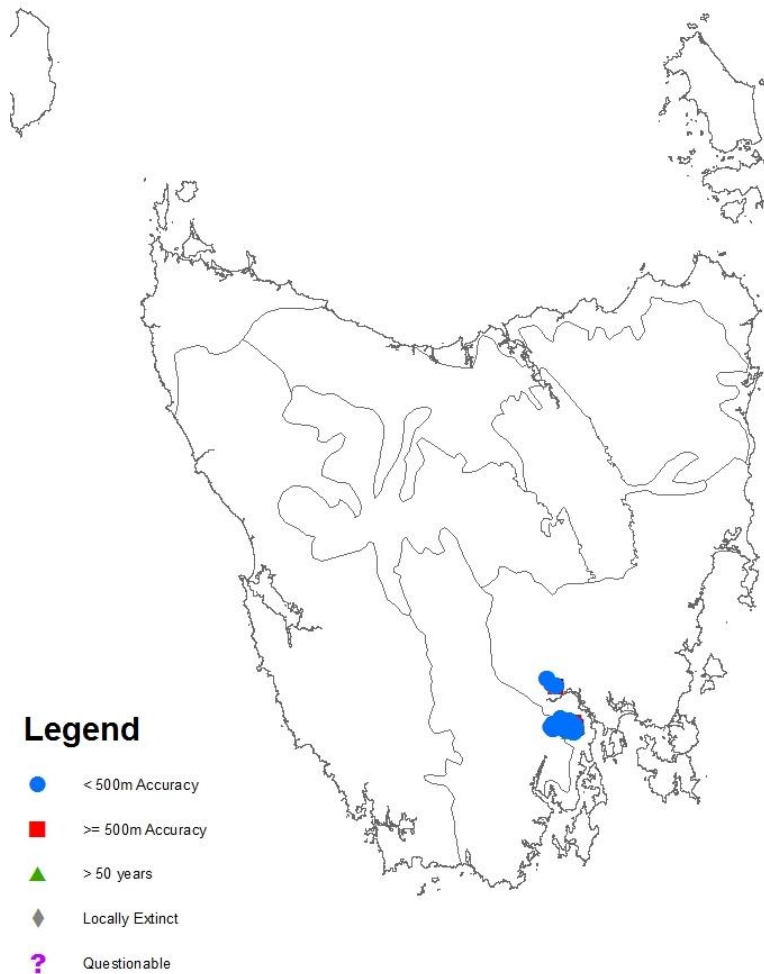
<i>Centropappus brunonis</i>	Spring						Summer				Autumn				Winter									
tasmanian daisytree	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A

- Flowering of this small tree or large shrub is from December to February. Most herbarium specimens have been collected from December to January. The presence of the yellow daisy flowers will aid detection and enable confirmation of the identity of the genus/species.
- *Centropappus brunonis* grows in shrubby woodland/forest dominated by *Eucalyptus delegatensis* (at mid altitudes) and by *Eucalyptus coccifera* and *Eucalyptus urnigera* (at higher altitudes). It typically occurs on dolerite talus but also occurs on poorly-drained sandstone shelves.

Distribution

This species is endemic to Tasmania.

Tasmanian Distribution (Natural Values Atlas, May 2017)



Revised 07/10/2013, updated 15/9/2016, and name changed from *Brachyglottis brunonis* 24/8/2017.

Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2017). *Notesheet for Centropappus brunonis (tasmanian daisy tree)*. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.

View

<http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 6165 4340.

Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.