

Damasonium minus



Damasonium minus.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: ALISMATACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Damasonium minus*,
(R.Br.) Buchenau, *Abh. Naturwiss. Vereins
Bremen* 2: 20 (1869)

COMMON NAME: starfruit

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (EPBC Act)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (TSP Act) rare

Description

An annual herb between 15-60 cm tall. **Leaves:** The leaves are long and heart-shaped. They have long petioles (stalks that attach leaves to stem) with sheathing bases. The blades in submerged plants are erect and floating. They are up to 8 cm long with 3-5 longitudinal primary nerves and secondary nerves that are arranged like the barbs of a feather. **Flowers:** This species has a leafless floral axis that bears a stiff whorled flowering branch with parts that can be undivided or composed of several similar sections. The outer floral parts (sepals) are green with clear margins. The inner segments are pale pink or white and resemble petals (between 2-3 mm long). Flowering occurs all year but particularly from October to February (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is a dry follicle between 4-6 mm long and has 2 seeds (Curtis & Morris 1994). **This species was previously known as *Damasonium australe*.**

Ecology and Management

Little is known regarding the ecology of this species, however Kirkpatrick (1991) indicates that it is not attractive to stock and is rarely grazed.

Conservation Status Assessment

Reassessment of *Damasonium minus* is required, as there are few records of this species in Tasmania

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.



Damasonium minus. a, flowering plant $\times 0.6$; b, leaf blades $\times 0.6$; c, fruit $\times 2$.

Damasonium minus.
D. Morris

- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1991, *Tasmanian Native Bush: A Management Handbook*, Tasmanian Environment Centre, Hobart.

Preceding text last modified 3/9/2003.

Following updated 21/9/2016.

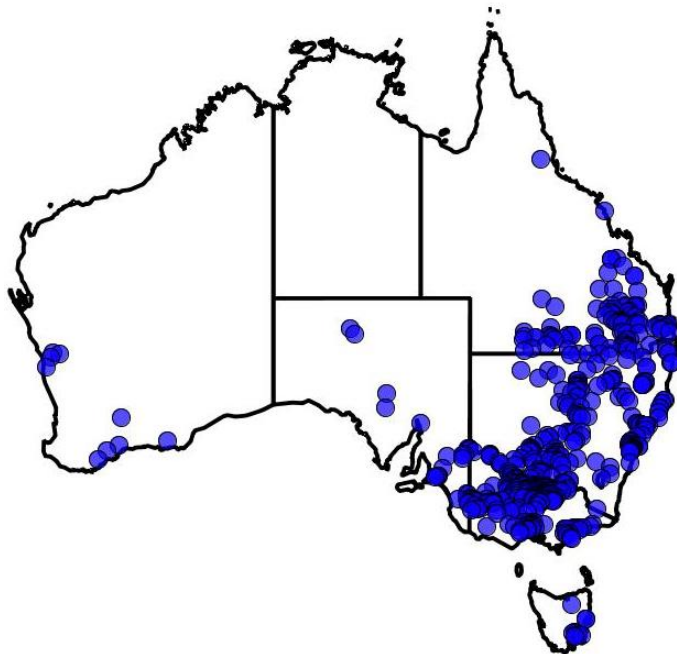
Survey Time and Habitat Guide (*black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash = poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records*)

<i>Damasonium minus</i>	Spring		Summer				Autumn				Winter													
starfruit	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 annual aquatic herb occurs all year but particularly from October to February (Flora of Victoria). The species can be identified using leaf shape and fruit.
- In Tasmania, *Damasonium minus* occupies swampy habitat and farm dams and prefers slow flowing or stationary water.

Distribution

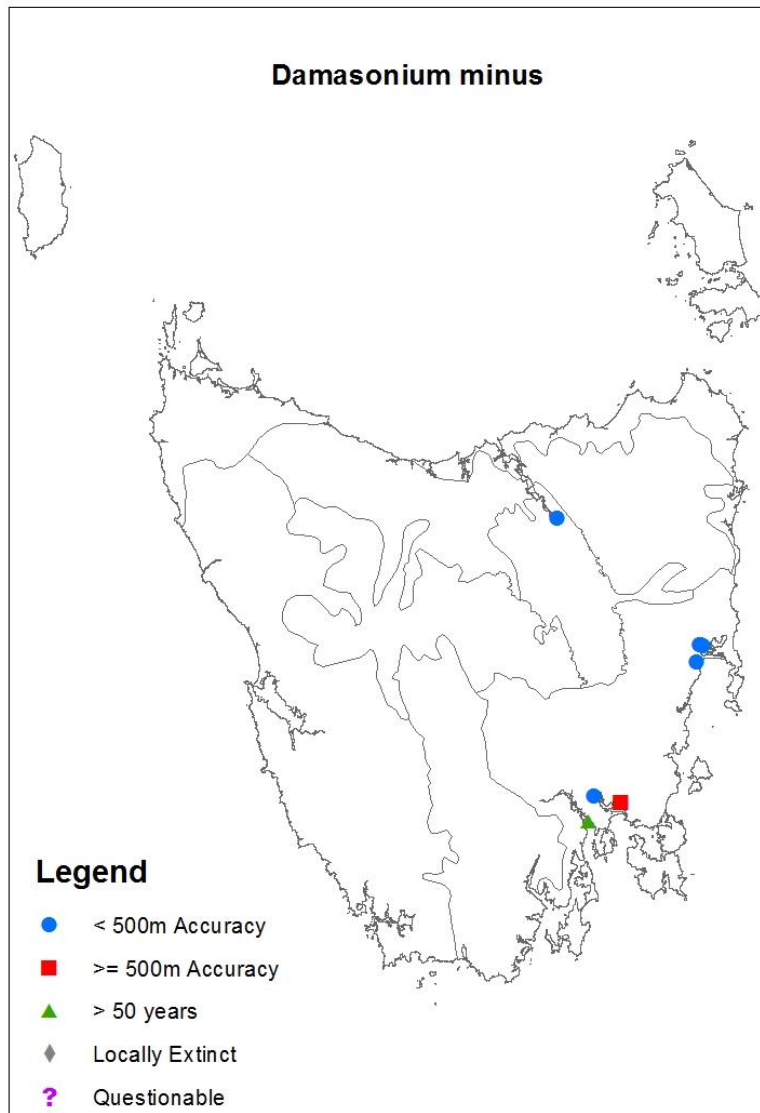
(Atlas of Living Australia 21/9/2016)



Known Reserves

Reserved in the Tamar Conservation Area.

Tasmanian Distribution
(Natural Values Atlas May 2015)



Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Damasonium minus (starfruit)*. 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.