

# *Melaleuca pustulata*



**FAMILY:** MYRTACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Melaleuca pustulata*,  
Hook.f., *Lond. J. Bot.* 6: 476 bis (1847)

**COMMON NAME:** Cranbrook paperbark

**COMMONWEALTH STATUS:** (*EPBC Act*)  
Not Listed

**TASMANIAN STATUS:** (*TSP Act*) rare

*Melaleuca pustulata*. Threatened Species Unit.

## Description

A spreading shrub with a rounded crown up to 2 metres tall. **Leaves:** The leaves are between 4-6 mm long, thick with a rounded apex and an under surface covered in prominent, small and blister-like (pustulate) glands. They are shortly stalked, arranged alternately and crowded along the stem. **Flowers:** The flowers are yellow, stalkless, approximately 1 cm in diameter and usually found at the end of the branches. The axis continues to grow out forming a leafy branch. Flowering occurs in spring. **Fruit:** The fruit is a woody capsule that is stalkless on the branch and can be persistent for many years. **Confusing species:** This species is similar in appearance to *Melaleuca ericifolia* and is distinguished by the prominent pustulate glands on the under surface of the leaves (description from Curtis & Morris 1975, Kirkpatrick 1991). Herbarium specimens have been collected from August to May.

## Distribution and Habitat

This species is endemic to Tasmania and is found in a range of habitats including dry open woodland, grassland and scrub, riparian zones and stable dunes in sparse coastal shrubbery. It is restricted to the central East Coast (Kirkpatrick 1991).

## Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Bicheno, Swansea, Cranbrook, Avoca, Eddystone, south side of Sleepy Bay, Little Bluestone Bay, Swan River, Lake Leake Road, near Castle Bridge, Freshwater Lagoon, Stony River, Black Swamp, Old Coach Road and Cherry Tree Hill (Apslawn).

### **Known Reserves**

Well reserved in the Apslawn Forest Reserve, Coles Bay Conservation Area, Cygnet River Conservation Area, Freycinet National Park, Swan River Forest Reserve and the Wye River State Reserve.

### **Ecology and Management**

*Melaleuca pustulata* is grazed by stock, particularly the smaller shrubs. It is also threatened by gorse along rivers in the Cranbrook area. Recruitment is from seed after fire and at other times, however high fire frequency may be detrimental. This species will vegetatively reproduce from rootstock (N. Lawrence pers. comm., TPLUC 1996).

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

### **Conservation Status Assessment**

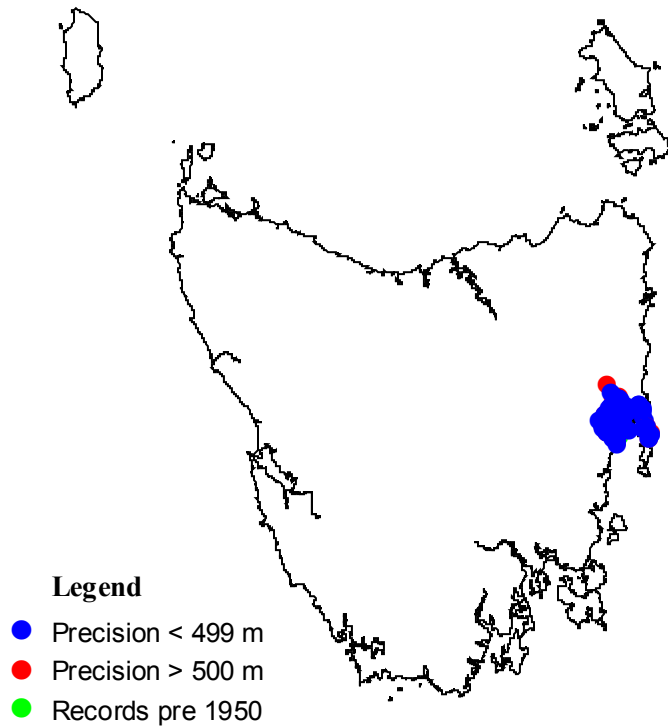
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Melaleuca pustulata*. Some records exist from regions outside of the central East Coast, however these require verification.

### **Further Information**

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1991, *Tasmanian Native Bush: A Management Handbook*, Tasmanian Environment Centre, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Brown, MJ & Moscal, A 1980, *Threatened Plants of the Tasmanian Central East Coast*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.

## Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, February 2003)



### 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Apslawn, Coles Bay, Cranbrook, Friendly, Henry, Leake, Lodi, Mayfield, Swansea.

Date last modified: 22/08/03