

Milligania johnstonii



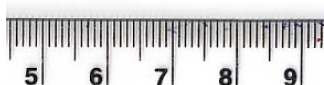
FAMILY: LILIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Milligania johnstonii*,
F. Muell. ex Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 7: 26 (1878)

COMMON NAME: Johnston's milligania

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare



Milligania johnstonii,
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

Alkaline pan habitat below. E. Lazarus

Description

A dwarf, mat-forming, perennial lily. **Stems:** The stems are either horizontal or erect and are clothed in the fibrous remnants of old leaf-sheaths (between 2.5-7.5 cm long). **Leaves:** The leaves are dark green, stiff, glossy, lance-shaped and taper to a fine point. The leaves measure between 1-4 cm long and 3-6 mm wide. They are hairless, except for a scattering of simple or finger-like hairs on the margins towards the tips. **Flowers:** The stalked, white flowers are in clusters of 3-6 and arranged in succession along the stem (the oldest flowers is usually at the base). The individual flowers are approximately 1.2 cm across. Flowering occurs from December to January. **Fruit:** The fruit is a small capsule that opens into 3 slits when ripe (description from Curtis & Morris 1994, Leigh *et al.* 1984). Herbarium specimens have been collected from December to April.

Distribution and Habitat

This species is endemic to Tasmania and is found in moist sand or mud on the margins of heath or sedgeland in the south-west. *Milligania johnstonii* is also locally abundant in alkaline pans around the Maxwell, Hardwood and Giblin River Valleys.

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species are the Maxwell, Hardwood and Giblin River Valleys and the De Witt Range. *Milligania johnstonii* is considered to be locally common. The number of individuals in the Giblin River area alone would equate several thousand.



Known Reserves

Reserved in the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park and the Southwest National Park.

Ecology and Management

No active management appears to be required for *Milligania johnstonii* as it occurs in highly specialised habitats where it maintains healthy population sizes. This species is not threatened by fire, as it inhabits highly flammable blanket moorland communities, which have the ability to regenerate following such disturbance. Trampling from bushwalkers is a problem within the area, however this impact has not affected *Milligania johnstonii* at this stage (Gilfedder 1989).

Other species associated with *Milligania johnstonii* in alkaline pans include *Baeckea leptochilus*, *Bauera rubioides*, *Sprengelia incarnata*, *Melaleuca squamea*, *Baumea acuta*, *Baumea juncea*, *Calorophus elongatus*, *Calorophus erostris*, *Carpha alpina*, *Centrolepis monogyna*, *Empodisma minus*, *Hydatella filamentosa*, *Oreobolus tholicarpus*, *Schoenus biglumis*, *Schoenus fluitans*, *Tetraria capillaris* and *Triglochin striata*. The prostrate shrub *Sprengelia distichophylla* is occasionally present. Apparently *Milligania johnstonii* is rarely seen in *Drosera arcturi* pans (Harris & Kitchener 2003).

Conservation Status Assessment

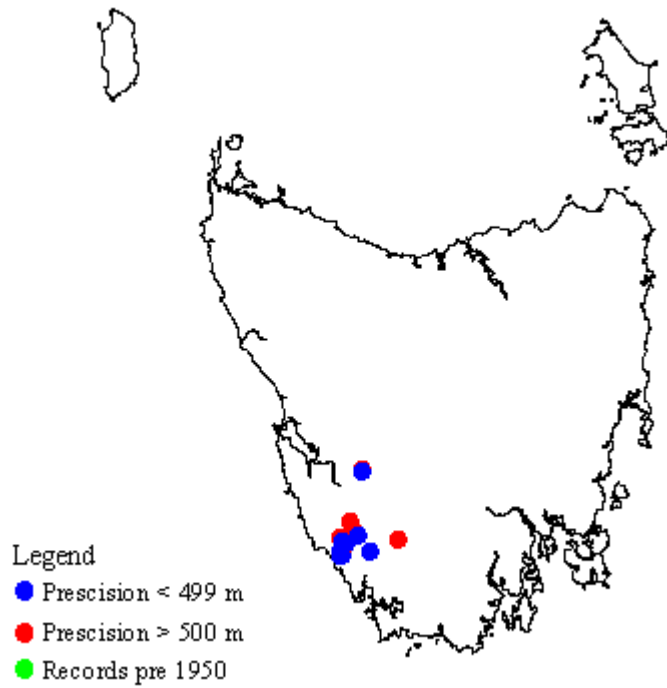
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Milligania johnstonii*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Gilfedder, L 1989, *Five Rare Southwest Tasmanian Endemic Plant Species*, Unpublished report to the World Wildlife Fund, Hobart.
- Harris, S & Kitchener, A (eds) 003, *Tasmania's Vegetation: A technical Manual for TASVEG: Tasmania's Vegetation Map*, Version 1.0, Nature Conservation Branch, Department of Primary Industries, Water & Environment, Hobart.
- Leigh J, Boden, R & Briggs, J 1984, *Extinct and Endangered Plants of Australia*, Macmillan, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, April 2005)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Abel, Elliott, Lewis, Propsting, Rookery, Solitary, View.

Date last modified: 12/05/2005