

Muehlenbeckia axillaris



Muehlenbeckia axillaris.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: POLYGONACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Muehlenbeckia axillaris*,
(Hook.f.) Endl., *Gen. Pl. Suppl.* 4(2): 51 (1848)

COMMON NAME: Matted lignum

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A small prostrate, straggling or trailing shrub forming densely matted to open patches 6-80 cm in diameter. The roots originate from the stem nodes. **Leaves:** The leaves vary in shape from squarish to almost round and are between 3-8 mm long and shortly stalked with a leathery texture. **Flowers:** The flowers are yellowish-white, between 4-8 mm in diameter and borne in groups of up to 3 in the axils (where the stem meets the leaf) of the upper leaves or at the end of the branches. Flowering is from December to February (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is black, shiny and up to 3.5 mm long (Curtis 1967). Herbarium specimens have been collected from November to April. **This species was previously known as *Pseudanthus tasmanicus*.**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria and New South Wales. It is also known from New Zealand. In Tasmania, *Muehlenbeckia axillaris* is predominantly found in moist gravelly or rocky places on the Central Plateau, extending out to the north-east, north-west and west of the State (Curtis 1967).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Weegen a near the Mersey River, Ouse, Table Mountain, Gads Hill (between rivers Mersey and Forth), Great Lake Road (between Pine Lake and Great Lake), Crystal Water Creek, Perth, Avoca, Iris River (Middlesex Plains), Little Split Rock, Queenstown, Sandbanks Tier, Waddamana and the Nive River at Marlborough.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Ben Lomond National Park, Central Plateau Conservation Area, Cradle Mountain- Lake St Clair National Park, Great Western Tiers Conservation Area, Mole Creek Karst National Park, Remarkable Rock Forest Reserve, Table Mountain Conservation Area and the Wentworth Creek Forest Reserve.

Ecology and Management

There is currently no information available regarding the ecology and management of this species.

Conservation Status Assessment

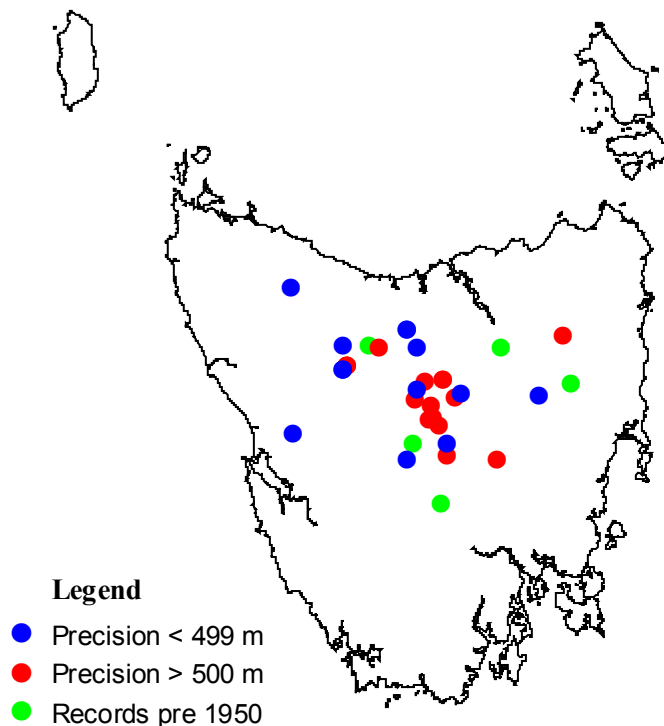
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Muehlenbeckia axillaris*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 3, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Barker, P, Brown, MJ, Harris, S & Mackie, R 1994, *The Reservation Status of Tasmanian Vascular Plant Communities*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust Incorporated, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1997, *Alpine Tasmania*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 map Sheets

Ada, Bradys Lookout, Breona, Bronte, Cathedral, Conara, Cradle, D Arcys, Echo, Giblin, Gog, Gormanston, Hanleth, Keith, Liena, Longford, Miena, Monpeelyata, Montana, Ouse, Pencil Pine, Split Rock, Table, Waddamana.

Date last modified: 22/08/03