

Odixia achlaena



Odixia achlaena. G. Jordan

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Odixia achlaena*,
(D.I. Morris) Orch. *Brunonia*. 4: 194 (1981)

COMMON NAME: Odixia

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A stiff, erect and much branched shrub to 2 metres tall. The branches arise in false whorls from beneath the previous year's flower heads. The young branches, leaves and flower stalks are densely covered in white, short, soft matted hairs, which are underneath a sticky yellow substance. **Leaves:** The leaves are alternately arranged, spreading and up to 2.5 cm long. The edges of the leaves are strongly bent back towards the underside of the leaf, almost covering the densely hair undersurface. **Flowers:** The flowers are yellowish-white and found in numerous, very small, shortly stalked flower heads that are arranged in large flattened clusters at the ends of the upper branches. Each one of the flower heads is approximately 5 mm long and contains 4-5 small flowers. **Fruit:** The fruit is a dry, small leathery structure approximately 1.2 mm long and covered in curved, elongated pimple like protrusions that form a ring at one end of the seed (description from Leigh *et al.* 1984).

Distribution and Habitat

This species is endemic to Tasmania and is locally abundant in the south-east near Kelleve. *Odixia achlaena* was initially discovered growing in *Eucalyptus* forest with *Eucalyptus cordata* (silver heart gum). It is common in dry sclerophyll forest around the area (Leigh *et al.* 1984, TPLUC 1996).

Key Sites and Populations

There is estimated to be greater than 5 populations with 1000s of individuals covering a geographical range of 25 kilometres (TPLUC 1996).

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Cape Bernier Nature Reserve, Hospital Creek Nature Reserve and the Sandspit River Forest Reserve.

Ecology and Management

This species is sensitive to fire, however recruitment of seed occurs after fire and other gap-forming disturbance. Recruitment and survival increases in roadside habitats, most likely due to the increased openness and decreased competition. Adverse impacts include forestry operations such as logging, forest clearing and plantation establishment and also clearing for agriculture (TPLUC 1996).

Conservation Status Assessment

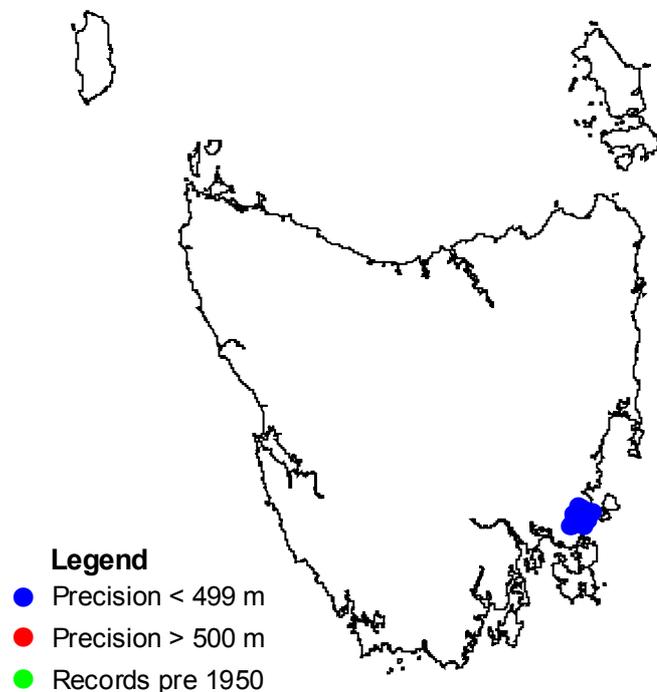
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Odixia achlaena*.

Further Information

- Leigh J, Boden, R & Briggs, J 1984, *Extinct and Endangered Plants of Australia*, Macmillan, Melbourne.
- 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, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Kellevie, Sandspit.

Date last modified: 26/06/03