

Olearia hookeri



Images by Richard Schahinger

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Olearia hookeri* (Sonder) Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 3: 483 (1867)

COMMON NAME: Crimsontip daisybush

COMMONWEALTH STATUS (EPBC Act): Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS (TSP Act): rare

Description

Slender, sticky, hairless shrub to 2 m high. Leaves are arranged alternately along the stem and are spreading and recurved, 3 to 5 mm long, terete but more-or-less flattened and narrow-linear in outline, with a rounded tip. The daisy-like flower heads are solitary, stalkless, and terminate leafy lateral branches; each flower head is about 20 to 25 mm across and has 8 to 10 conspicuous white to bluish-purple ray florets. The involucre, the bracts surrounding the flower head, is 3 to 4 mm long. The fruit is dry, small and one-seeded (description based on Curtis 1963). Flowering may occur from late September to December. **Confusing species:** *Olearia ericoides* also has small sticky leaves, but its lower leaf surfaces are covered with woolly hairs.

Distribution and Habitat

Olearia hookeri is endemic to Tasmania (Baker & Duretto 2011). The species is found on dry hills around Hobart in the State's south and also along the central east coast (Curtis 1963, Kirkpatrick *et al.* 1980). It grows within eucalypt woodlands with a mixed grassy-shrubby understorey, favouring north-northwesterly slopes on mudstone. In the south of the State the dominant eucalypt is *Eucalyptus amygdalina*, *Eucalyptus risdonii* or *Eucalyptus tenuiramis*; in the central east near Mt Peter the dominant eucalypt over a very sparse understorey is *Eucalyptus sieberi*, while at Templestowe Flats near Seymour there is an 'atypical' occurrence on dolerite.

Key Sites and Populations

The largest known populations are on Hobart's eastern shore at Government Hills and Meehan Range (both numbering in the thousands), with a smaller population to the east of Lime Kiln Reservoir at Glenorchy. The known populations in the State's central east consist of a 100 or so plants near Mt Peter (last seen in 2000) and a few plants at Templestowe Flats (in roadside remnants, last seen in 2011).



Olearia hookeri: foliage and habit at East Risdon State Reserve

Known Reserves

Reserved in East Risdon State Reserve, Meehan Range Nature Recreation Area, Wellington Park and Freycinet National Park.

Ecology and Management

Probably regenerates from seed following fire (AVK Environmental Management 2006), though recruitment post-fire may be inhibited by drought (& browsing? as observed at the colony near Mt Peter in Freycinet National Park).

Conservation Status Assessment

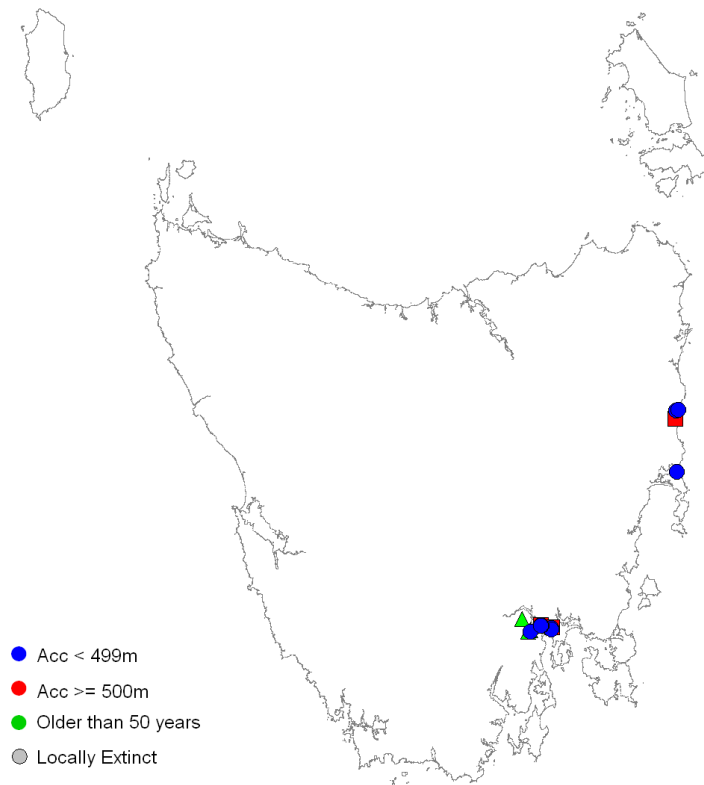
Surveys are required to determine the size and condition of the northern populations before a meaningful reassessment of the species' conservation status can be undertaken.

Further Information

- AVK Environmental Management (2006). *Fire Management Strategy for Wellington Park*. Wellington Park Management Trust, Hobart.
- Baker, M.L. & Duretto, M.F. (2011). *A Census of the Vascular Plants of Tasmania and Index to the Student's Flora of Tasmania and Flora of Tasmania Online*. Tasmanian Herbarium, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart.
- Curtis, W.M. (1963). *The Student's Flora of Tasmania, Part 2*. Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, J.B., Brown, M.J. & Moscal, A. (1980). *Threatened Plants of the Tasmanian Central East Coast*. Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Section records, October 2011)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Collinsvale, Friendly, Hobart, New Norfolk, Piccaninny & Seymour (?).

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View

<http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

Contact details

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Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.