

Ozothamnus lycopodioides



Ozothamnus lycopodioides.
G. Jordan

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Ozothamnus lycopodioides*,
Hook, F. *London. J. Bot.* 6: 199 (1947)

COMMON NAME: Lycopoid everlasting

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not
Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A slender, much branched, spreading shrub between 50-100 cm tall. **Leaves:** The leaves are overlapping and stalkless with the base attached to the stem (between 5-7 mm long). This causes the stem to be scaped with blunt projections after the blade has fallen away. The blades are erect or half spreading and narrow with a blunt tip. The leaves are also leathery (with the same structure on both sides) and apparently hairless, but sticky with stalkless, head-shaped oily hairs. **Flowers:** The flower heads are stalkless and are in dense clusters at the ends of the branches. There are between 10-12 flowers together that are surrounded by the upper most foliage leaves. The oval shaped heads are between 3.5-50 mm long. The outer bracts (leaf-like structures associated with flower) are thin, dry, sticky, brown and sparsely hairy – they are also somewhat hardened. The inner bracts have rounded tips that are dark brownish-purple and erect or curved inwards. There are between 18-24 florets that are longer than the flower bracts. Flowering in spring. **Fruit:** The fruit are small and dry with leathery walls. They are covered with minute projections. The pappus (ring of scales or hairs found on top of fruit) has bristles with tiny barbs, the tips are thickened and also covered with minute projections (description from Curtis 1963).

Distribution and Habitat

This species is endemic to Tasmania. It is found in dry sclerophyll forest near the East Coast and on rocky slopes along the Prosser River. This species is commonly found on a dolerite substrate (Curtis 1963).



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E. Lazarus

Key Sites and Populations

Ozothamnus lycopodioides is locally common with individual numbers reported to be several thousand around the Paradise Gorge area along the Tasman Highway (North 2002). Other key sites include the Sugarloaf, Prosser River, Lake Leake Road, Kelvedon, Swansea, Swanston Road, north of Buckland Military Training area, Little Swanport, Griffiths Rivulet and near the Thumbs picnic area.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Apslawn Forest Reserve, Cygnet River Forest Reserve, Dry Creek East Nature Reserve, Eastern Tiers Forest Reserve, Lost Falls Forest Reserve, Swan River Forest Reserve, Three Thumbs State Reserve and Wye River State Reserve.

Ecology and Management

In some situations, this species has regenerated prolifically after fire, however in others regeneration has failed altogether. *Ozothamnus lycopodioides* has wind-dispersed seeds, which allow colonisation of bare ground. It is not known if seeds are stored in the soil, however this is not a property of the family (Kirkpatrick *et al.* 1980). This species does not suffer adverse impacts from grazing as it is unpalatable to livestock.

Conservation Status Assessment

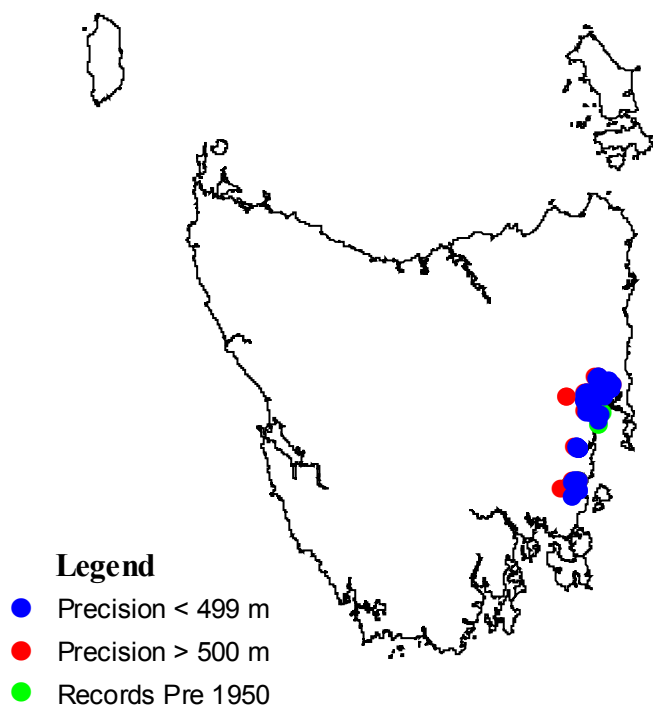
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Ozothamnus lycopodioides*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 2, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Brown, MJ & Moscal, A 1980, *Threatened Plants of the Tasmanian Central East Coast*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Apslawn, Buckland, Colonels, Cranbrook, Henry, Leake, Mayfield, Orford, Royalty, Sandspit, Swansea.

Date last modified: 17/06/03