

Ranunculus pumilio var. *pumilio*



Ranunculus pumilio var. *pumilio*.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: RANUNCULACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Ranunculus pumilio*
var. *pumilio*, R.Br. ex DC., *Syst. Nat.* 1: 271
(1817)

COMMON NAME: Ferny buttercup

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A tufted annual herb, usually with shaggy long hairs. **Stems:** The stems are spreading and trailing loosely along the ground, between 5-30 cm long. **Leaves:** The leaves are arising from the base of the stem and are also born from the aerial parts of the stem. They are on slender stalks, are rounded in outline and measure between 5-15 mm in diameter. **Flowers:** The flowers are greenish and very small with 5 petals or less. They are oblong in shape and approximately 2 mm long. This species flowers in spring (September to October). **Fruit:** The fruit is small, dry and in clusters that are somewhat flattened. It is usually hairy and covered in projections that often end in a hair (description from Cunningham *et al.* 1992, Curtis & Morris 1975). **This species was previously known as *Ranunculus pumilio*.**

Distribution and Habitat

This species is found all throughout temperate Australia. In Tasmania, *Ranunculus pumilio* var. *pumilio* occurs mostly in wet places from sea level to altitudes of 800-900 metres (Curtis & Morris 1975). No other varieties of *Ranunculus pumilio* occur in Tasmania.

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include the Esk River, the mouth of Parramore Creek and Walkers Lookout on Flinders Island.

Known Reserves

Known from the River Derwent Conservation Area, South Esk River Private Sanctuary and Waterhouse Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

Insects are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

Conservation Status Assessment

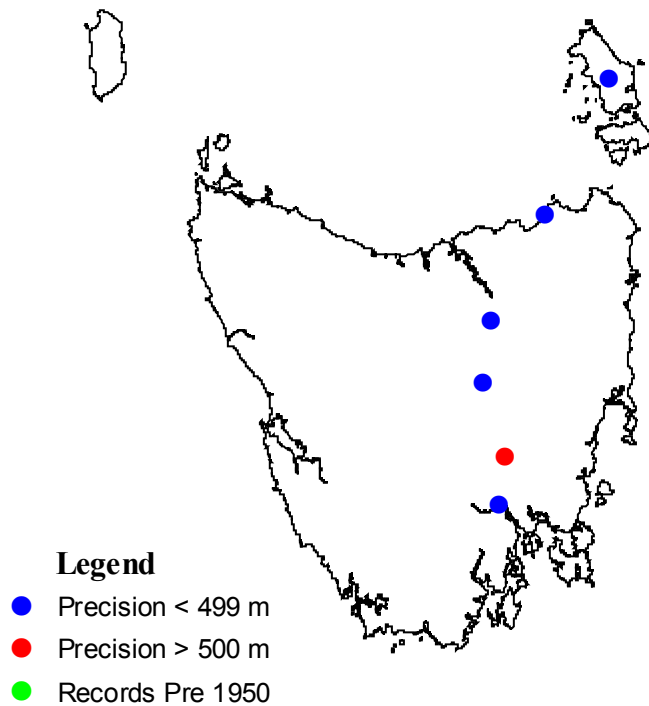
Ranunculus pumilio var. *pumilio* may qualify for listing as vulnerable.

Further Information

- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Bothwell, Leventhorpe, Longford, Millers, New Norfolk, Oxberry.

Date last modified: 03/09/03