

# *Rhodanthe anthemoides*



*Rhodanthe anthemoides*.  
H & A Wapstra.

**FAMILY:** ASTERACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Rhodanthe anthemoides*,  
(Sprengel) Paul G. Wilson, *Nuytsia* 8: 386 (1992)

**COMMON NAME:** Chamomile sunray

**COMMONWEALTH STATUS:** (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

**TASMANIAN STATUS:** (*TSP Act*) rare

## Description

A perennial herb with a woody rootstock from which numerous, slender and usually unbranched stems arise (between 20-40 cm tall). These stems bear flower heads at the ends. **Leaves:** The leaves are stalkless and arranged alternately along the stem. They are narrow and linear-shaped with a pointed tip and a broad base. The leaves are somewhat thick, have transparent glandular dots and are either hairless or with scattered, short, stiff hairs. The leaf margins are either whole or with small shallow, rounded teeth and are rough to the touch. The lower leaves measure between 6-15 mm long, the upper ones are progressively smaller. **Flowers:** The pale yellow flowers are arranged in heads between 15-25 mm in diameter. They are surrounded by leaf-like structures (bracts) that are white, papery and conspicuous. Flowering is from September to February (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is small, dry and leathery (achene) and densely covered with silky hairs. The pappus (ring of scales or hairs found on top of fruit) is not joined at the base and is feather like in appearance (description from Curtis 1963, Walsh & Entwistle 1999). Herbarium specimens have been collected from December to March. **This species was previously known as *Helipterum anthemoides*.**

## Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. The Tasmanian distribution of *Rhodanthe anthemoides* includes montane grasslands, heath and heathy scrub in central and north-western Tasmania (Curtis 1963, L. Gilfedder, pers. comm.).

### **Key Sites and Populations**

Key sites include Cradle Mountain turn off on Moina, Hellyer River crossing Waratah Railway, Homestead Flats, south of Iris River, Great Lake, Middlesex Plains, Waratah, Bull River, Boyers Plain (Hamshire Hills), South Esk, Bothwell, near Woolmers (Longford), Guildford, Vale of Belvoir, Peak Plain (south of St Valentines Peak), Clyde River at junction with Grassy Rivulet, Mt. Claude, Lake Lea, Micklethwaite Marsh and Bashan (east side of Bashan Road).

### **Known Reserves**

Reserved in the Alum Cliffs State Reserve, Black Bluff Nature Recreation Area, Liawenee Conservation Area, Mole Creek Karst National Park, Mount Roland Regional Reserve and the Vale of Belvoir Conservation Area.

### **Ecology and Management**

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

### **Conservation Status Assessment**

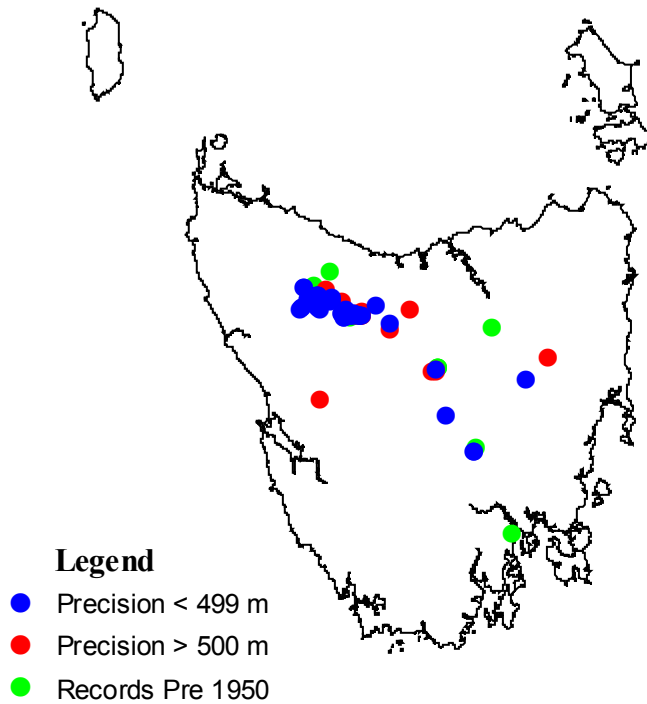
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Rhodanthe anthemoides*.

### **Further Information**

- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 2, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Walsh, NG & Entwistle, TJ eds 1999, *Flora of Victoria*, Volume 4, Inkata Press, Melbourne.

## Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



### 1:25 000 Map Sheets

Bothwell, Cawood, Cethana, Gog, Gormanston, Guildford, Hanleth, Jacobs, Lea, Liena, Longford, Loongana, Luina, Mole Creek, Parrawe, Pearse, Pencil Pine, Split Rock, Taroona, Tewkesbury, Waddamana.

Date last modified: 03/09/03