

Roccellinastrum neglectum

FAMILY: ROCCELLINASTRACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Roccellinastrum neglectum*,
Henssen & Vobis. *Nord. J. Bot.* 2:6 (1982)

COMMON NAME: Lichen

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not
Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) endangered

Description

An erect, bushy or shrublike, woolly lichen characterised by slender circular to partially flattened lobes. This species is greenish white in the field and becomes yellowish white in the herbarium. It grows to between 0.2-0.4 mm wide and 5 mm long. The globe-shaped fungal structures (apothecia) are without a margin, pink in colour and between 0.3-0.4 mm wide. This lichen contains protocetraric and squamatic acids as the main internal chemical compounds (Henssen *et al.* 1982).

Distribution and Habitat

Roccellinastrum neglectum occurs in New Zealand and Tasmania. It is currently known only from the cool temperate rainforests of the Savage River Pipeline Road in the north west of Tasmania. It occurs on smooth-barked, shaded tree trunks (Kantvilas 2003).

Key Sites and Populations

The only known locality for this species is the Savage River Pipeline Road.

Known Reserves

This species is not known from any reserve.

Ecology and Management

Roccellinastrum neglectum appears to prefer shaded conditions on the lower parts of trunks and could well be susceptible to canopy disturbance that would bring increased light levels to the interior of the forest (Kantvilas 2003).

Logging of rainforest is the major threat to this species. The two localities where it has been recorded are on unreserved land along the pipeline. One locality, where the species was relatively abundant on a very old *Nothofagus* trunk was logged in the early 1980s as part of a rainforest logging trial. It was in the course of a pre-logging survey instigated by Forestry Tasmania that it was first discovered. The second locality has not been logged, however at this site there is only one tiny colony on a single tree (Kantvilas 2003).

Conservation Status Assessment

This species was first discovered in 1980 and then collected again in 1982. It is very distinctive and easily recognised in the field. However, though extensive surveys have been conducted in a wide variety of Tasmanian rainforest communities, this species has only been recorded from two sites. Searches have involved general sampling as well as very intensive survey and sampling work undertaken in the 1980s. Many hundreds of rainforest locations throughout Tasmania have been targeted (Kantvilas 2003).

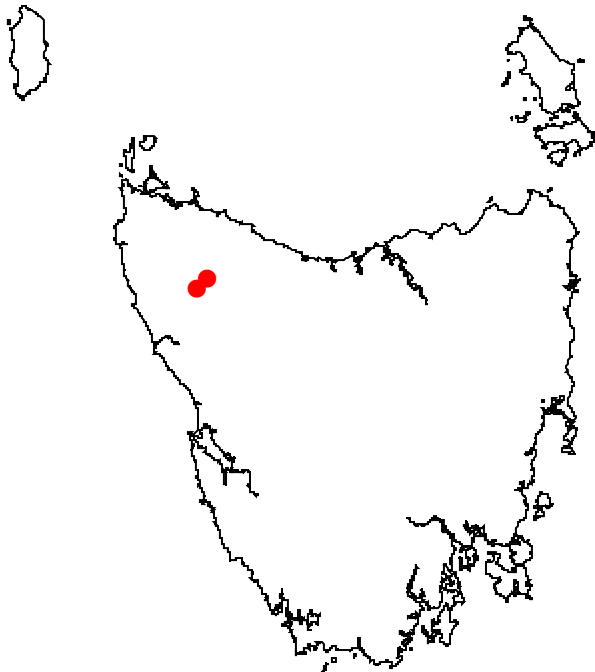
Under the guidelines for listing *Roccellinastrum neglectum* qualifies for listing as endangered and has recently been added to the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

Further Information

- Henssen, A, Vobis, G & Renner, B 1982, *New Species of Roccellinastrum* with an Emendation of the Genus, *Nordic Journal of Botany*, Vol.2, pp.587-599.
- Kantvilas, G 1990, The Genus *Roccellinastrum* in Tasmania, *Lichenologist*, Vol. 22(1), pp.79-86.
- Kantvilas, G 2003, *Roccellinastrum neglectum: Nomination for Listing or De-Listing of a Taxon of Flora or Fauna*, Threatened Species Scientific Advisory Committee, Hobart, Tasmania.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, April 2004)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Baretop, Bertha.

Date last modified: 14/04/2004