

Schenkia australis



Schenkia australis.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: GENTIANACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Schenkia australis*,
(R.Br.) G.Mans., *Taxon* 53: 725 (2004)

COMMON NAME: Spike centaury

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A hairless annual herb, between 10-45 cm tall. **Stems:** The stems are erect. **Leaves:** The leaves are borne on the aerial parts of the plant, often in basal rosettes, without stalks to attach them to the main stem. They are oblong or lance-shaped and between 1-2 cm long. **Flowers:** The inflorescence is on an equal plane at the top of the stems. The flower stalks are between 2-5 mm long. The outermost floral parts (calyx) have narrow linear-shaped parts, which are joined at the base and between 7-10 mm long. The petals are pink and joined together, the floral tube is slightly longer than the calyx. **Fruit:** The capsule (dry fruit) is about as long as the calyx and splits into two valves (description from Curtis 1963). Herbarium specimens have been collected from November to March. **This species was previously known as *Centaurium spicatum* or *Centaurium australe*.**

Distribution and Habitat

This species is found throughout Australia and in New Caledonia. In Tasmania, *Schenkia australis* has been recorded from cleared forest pasture, rainforest/wet sclerophyll forest and heathland in the east and north of the State (Curtis 1963). This species may have been introduced to Tasmania.

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Bowmans Creek (neglected grazing land) south of Jackeys Marsh, Quamby Bluff (Golden Valley), north of Scamander and Launceston.

Known Reserves

Known reserves include the Hunter Island Conservation Area, Mole Creek Karst National Park, Mount Direction Historic Site, Quamby Bluff Forest Reserve, Three Hummock Island State Reserve and the Waterhouse Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

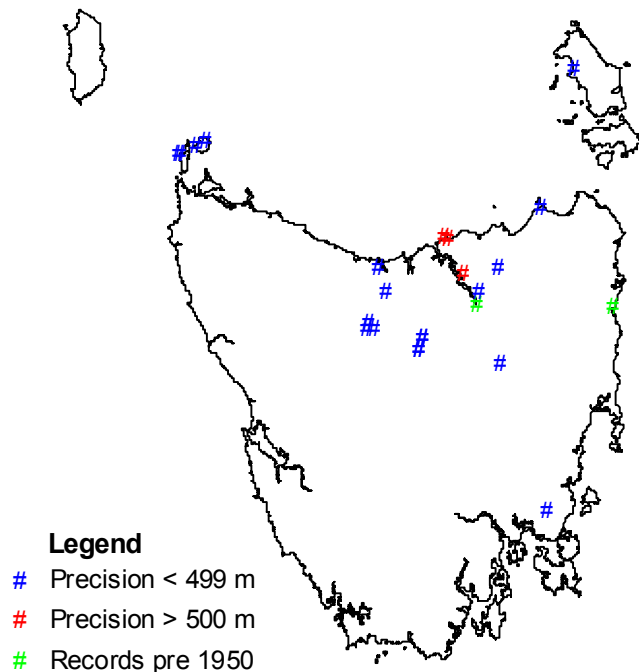
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Schenkia australis* though it should be delisted if determined to be introduced to Tasmania.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 2, Government Printer, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, April 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Beaumaris, Cleveland, Cuvier, Dilston, Emita, Keraudren, Latrobe, Launceston, Liena, Lilydale, Lisle, Low Head, Mole Creek, Quamby Bluff, Railton, Rochon, Sandspit, Waterhouse.

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