

Scleranthus diander



Scleranthus diander. H & A Wapstra

FAMILY: CARYOPHYLLACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Scleranthus diander*,
R.Br., *Prodr.* 412 (1810)

COMMON NAME: Tufted knawel

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*)
vulnerable

Description

A small, almost woody perennial herb with a tufted rootstock. **Stems:** The stems are much branched and erect or sloping upwards between 4-10 cm long. **Leaves:** The leaves are crowded, narrow and between 4-8 mm long. They are often thick with minutely toothed margins. **Flowers:** The stalkless flowers are clustered in groups of 3 or 4 and are either borne in the axils (where the stem meets the leaf) of the upper leaves or crowded into heads at the ends of the branches. There are 5 outermost floral parts (sepals), which are triangular (between 1.2-2.2 mm long) and overlap at the base. Flowering is from November to January (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is distinctly ribbed and measures between 3.3-4.2 mm long and 0.9-1.8 mm wide (description from Curtis & Morris 1975, Walsh & Entwistle 1994).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland, this species occurs in Victoria. This is a cosmopolitan species, which is also found in Europe and East and North Africa. In Tasmania, *Scleranthus diander* is found from the Central Midlands area to Hobart with most of the records from the Ross and Tunbridge areas. This species inhabits grassy woodland and is associated with dolerite and basalt substrates (Duncan & Johnson 1995, Kirkpatrick 1991, TPLUC 1996, Walsh & Entwistle 1994).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Township Lagoon and Tunbridge Tiers Road (Tunbridge) and Avoca.

Known Reserves

This species is reserved in the Mount Rumney Conservation Area and the Township Lagoon Nature Reserve.

Ecology and Management

There is little known regarding the ecology of this species, except that it can benefit from disturbances that create gaps. Reproductive information is unavailable (TPLUC 1996).

Conservation Status Assessment

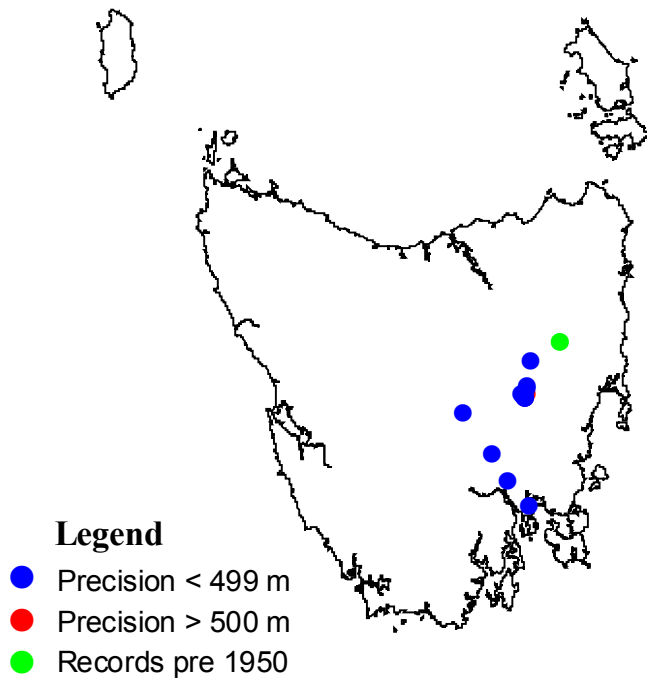
Further information is needed to identify the extent of this species at known sites.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Duncan, F & Johnson, K 1995, *Forest Practices Forest Botany Manual, Nature Conservation Region 4*, Forestry Tasmania, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1991, *Tasmanian Native Bush: A Management Handbook*, Tasmanian Environment Centre, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Gilfedder L & Fensham RJ 1988, *City Parks and Cemeteries: Tasmania's Remnant Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.
- Walsh, NG & Entwistle, TJ eds 1994, *Flora of Victoria*, Volume 2, Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, September 2002)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Ellinthorp, Hanleth, Hermitage, Hobart, Jacobs, Kempton, Tea Tree, Tunbridge.

Date last modified: 03/09/03