

Stellaria multiflora subsp. *nebulosa*



Stellaria multiflora subsp. *multiflora*.
G. Jordan (No image available for
Stellaria multiflora subsp. *nebulosa*).

FAMILY: CARYOPHYLLACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Stellaria multiflora*
Hook. subsp. *nebulosa* C.H.Mill. & J.G.West,
J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 25: 48 (2012)

COMMON NAME: nebulous rayless
starwort

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A hairless, annual herb (or occasionally with sparse hairs) with prostrate to erect stems (between 16-23 cm tall). **Leaves:** The leaves are stalkless and arranged oppositely along the stem. They are linear to lance-shaped, between 2.5-11 mm long and up to 0.7-2 mm wide with an acute or subacute apex. **Flowers:** The flowers are green, the leaf-like structures associated with the flower (sepals) are 2-5.5 mm long and the petals are absent. **Fruit:** The fruit, which contains small seeds, is a narrow, ovoid to ellipsoid capsule with a straight or sometimes slightly recurved valve apex. **Confusing species:** The more common *Stellaria multiflora* subsp. *multiflora* can be distinguished from *Stellaria multiflora* subsp. *nebulosa* by its broadly ellipsoid capsules which have a strongly revolute valve apex (description from Miller & West 2012).

Ecology and Management

Population sizes of *Stellaria multiflora* are small with generally less than 10 plants and the area occupied is small (Tasmanian Flora Network July assessment 2002).

Conservation Status Assessment

Given that the parent species, *Stellaria multiflora*, was listed as rare before the subspecies were described in 2012, the conservation status of the two Tasmanian subspecies of *Stellaria multiflora* was assessed resulting in *Stellaria multiflora* subsp. *nebulosa* being listed as rare in its own right in April 2016 on Schedules of the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (in lieu of the parent listing). However, *Stellaria multiflora* subsp. *multiflora* was not considered to meet the criteria for listing due to its widespread distribution and large number of populations resulting from new observations since the time of listing of the parent species.

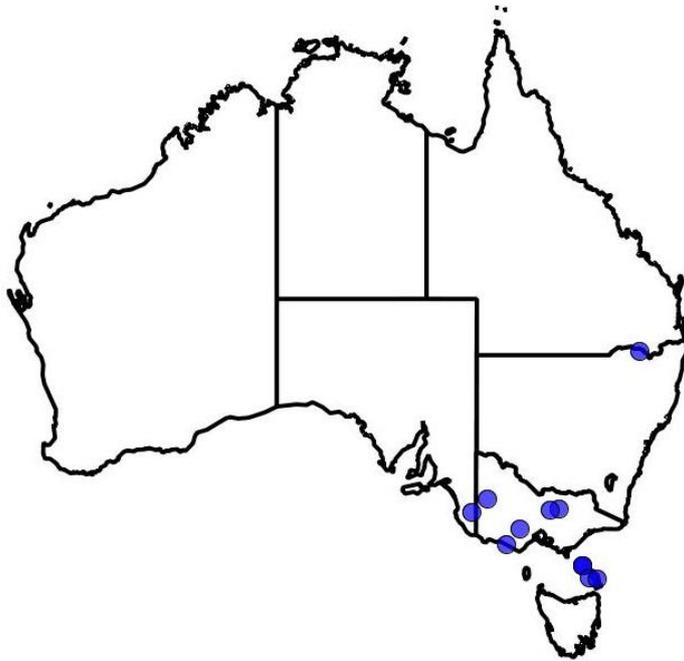
Survey Time and Habitat Guide (*black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records*)

<i>Stellaria multiflora</i> subsp. <i>nebulosa</i>	Spring				Summer				Autumn				Winter													
nebulous rayless starwort	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	J	J	A	A

- This annual herb is best detected in spring-summer when emerged. The diminutive flowers do not aid detection but mature fruit are required to confirm identification to subspecies level.
- In Tasmania, *Stellaria multiflora* subsp. *nebulosa* occurs on sandy to rocky soils, often on dune sands and often in damp areas and can occur in coastal dune scrubs, heathland and open eucalypt forests (Miller & West 2012).

Distribution

(Atlas of Living Australia 23/2/2017)

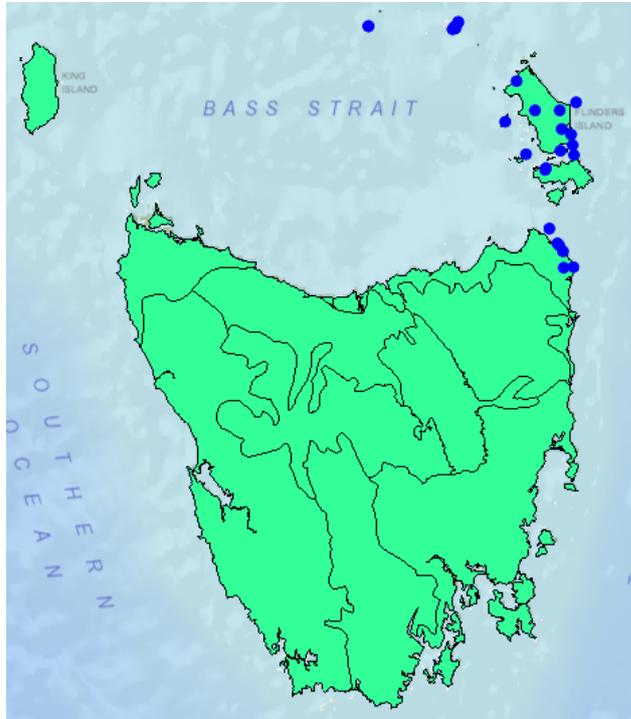


Known Reserves in Tasmania

Reserved in Kent Group National Park, Curtis Island Nature Reserve, Lackrana Conservation Area, Logan Lagoon Conservation Area, Prime Seal Island Conservation Area, Vansittart Conservation Area and the Babel Island and Mt Chappell Island Indigenous Protected Areas.

Tasmanian Distribution

(Natural Values Atlas February 2017. Note that unless the subspecies was specified, unvouchered records from the Furneaux Islands were assumed to belong to *Stellaria multiflora* subsp. *nebulosa*)



Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Miller, CH & West, JG 2012, A revision of the genus *Stellaria* (Caryophyllaceae). *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 25: 27–54.

Date last modified: 28/2/2017

Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2017). *Notesheet for Stellaria multiflora subsp. nebulosa (nebulous rayless starwort)*. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.

View

<http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 61654340.

Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.