

Stuckenia pectinata



Stuckenia pectinata. G. Davis.

FAMILY: POTAMOGETONACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Stuckenia pectinata*, (L.)
Börner, *Fl. Deut. Volk.* 713 (1912)

COMMON NAME: Fennel pondweed

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

This plant is wholly submerged, growing in dense masses from a network of underground stems. **Underground parts:** The horizontal stems originate from hook-shaped over-wintering buds. **Stems:** The stems are extensively branching, leafy, slender and circular in cross-section. **Leaves:** The leaf sheaths are fused to the leaf stalk and enclose the stem. They are loose and more or less enlarged in those leaves standing immediately underneath flowers. The leaves are thread-like, between 5-10 cm long and 1-2 mm wide with a rounded or pointed tip. **Flower:** The flower heads are between 2-4 cm long on a weak slender stalk. Flowering is from November to May (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is small, dry and between 3-4 mm long and 2-2.5 mm wide. It is rounded and smooth with a short beak (description from Cunningham *et al.* 1992, Curtis & Morris 1994). Herbarium specimens have been collected from January to April. **This species was previously known as *Potamogeton pectinatus*.**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia. It is also known from Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America and New Zealand. In Tasmania, *Stuckenia pectinata* is found in fresh to brackish/saline waters in rivers, estuaries and inland lakes. It forms dense stands or mats, particularly in slow-flowing or static water. The species grows in water of various depths, from a few centimetres to 4 metres deep and occurs on King Island, the Furneaux Group and in State's north-east, Midlands and East Coast (Barnes *et al.* 2002, Hughes *et al.* 1989).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Blackmans Lagoon, Fergusons Lagoon, Flyover Lagoon 1 and Calverts Lagoon.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Clarke Island Nature Reserve, Pitt Water Nature Reserve and the Waterhouse Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

There is currently no information available regarding the ecology and/or management of this species.

Conservation Status Assessment

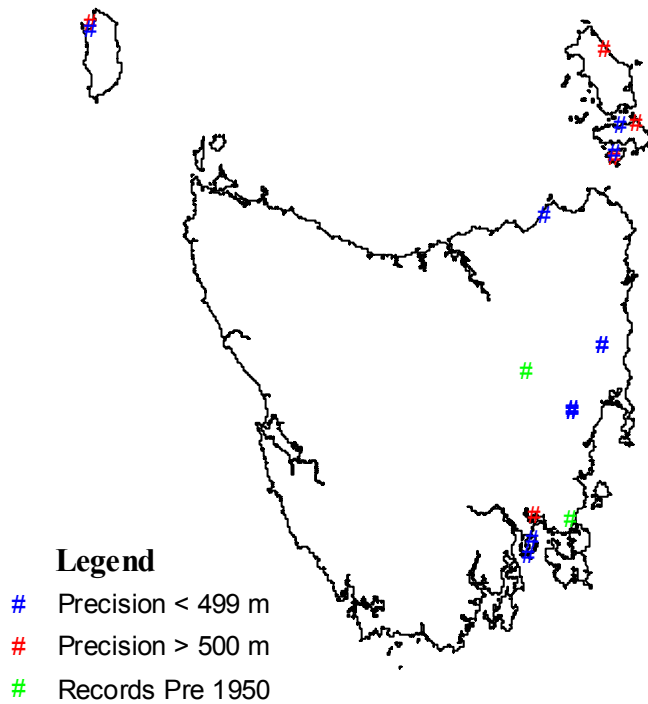
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Stuckenia pectinata*.

Further Information

- Aston, HI 1973, *Aquatic Plants of Australia*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
- Barnes, RW, Duncan, F & Todd, CS 2002, *The Native Vegetation of King Island, Bass Strait*, Nature Conservation Report 02/6, Nature Conservation Branch, Resource Management & Conservation, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.
- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Hughes, JMR & Davis, GL 1989, *Aquatic Plants of Tasmania*, University of Melbourne Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Blackmans Bay, Colonels, Conara, Cremorne, Fingal, Kellevie, New Year, Preservation, Puncheon, Sorell, Waterhouse, Wingaroo.

Date last modified: 03/09/03 (name updated 25/10/2012)