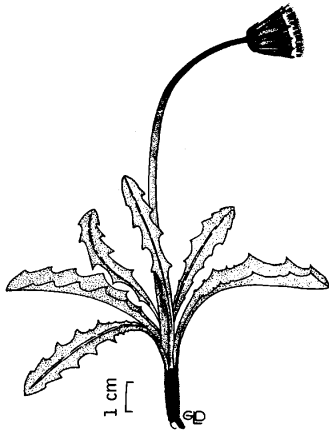


Taraxacum aristum



Taraxacum aristum.
G. Davis.

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Taraxacum aristum*,
Hagl. & Markl., *Bot. Not.* 117: 197 figs.198 &
199 (1964)

COMMON NAME: Austral dandelion

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A herb with leaves radiating from the centre of the plant. **Stems:** There are no leaves present on the flowering stem. **Leaves:** The leaves are hairless, oblong to linear in shape and up to 6 cm long and 1 cm wide. The margins have asymmetric, broad teeth. The base of the leaves narrows into a stalk that is usually purplish at the end attached to the leaf base. **Flowers:** The flowers are arranged into a flower head that is solitary and yellow in colour (between 1.5-2 cm in diameter). The flower head is situated on a flowering stem that is longer than the leaves. Flowering is from December to March (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is between 4-5 mm long, yellowish-brown, dark grey, or red to blackish-purple in colour. The beak-like projection is between 6.5-9 mm long, and is longer than the body of the fruit. The seeds are grey and have a windmill-like attachment. **Confusing species:** This species is similar to many of the introduced *Taraxacum* species, but differs by having less deeply and more regularly toothed leaves (description from Kirkpatrick 1997, Walsh & Entwistle 1999).

Distribution and Habitat

Taraxacum aristum occurs throughout eastern Australia (Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory). In Tasmania, it is found in alpine grassland and grassy heath in the central highlands (Kirkpatrick 1997, Walsh & Entwistle 1999, TSU records 2003).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Stone Hut Hill, Arthurs Lake and Black Johnnys Tier on the Central Plateau.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park.

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

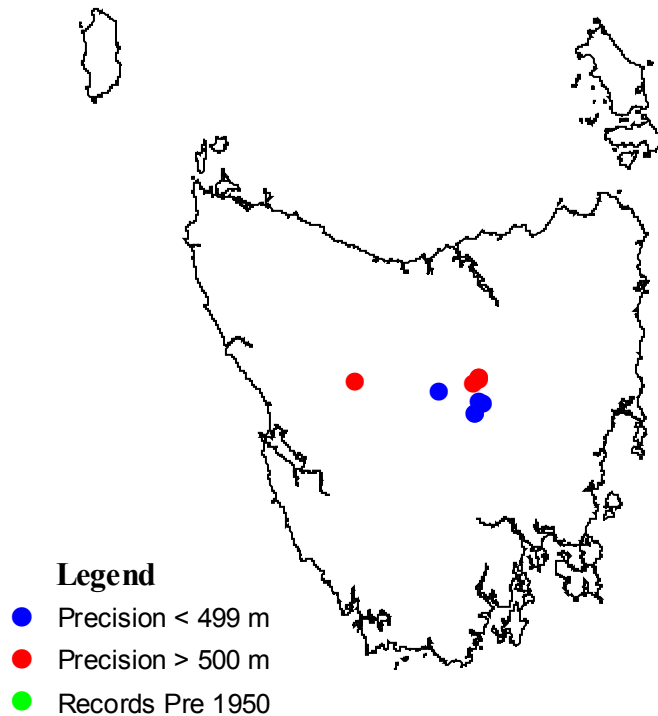
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Taraxacum aristum*.

Further Information

- Kirkpatrick, JB 1997, *Alpine Tasmania*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1991, *Tasmanian Native Bush: A Management Handbook*, Tasmanian Environment Centre, Hobart.
- Walsh, NG & Entwistle, TJ eds 1999, *Flora of Victoria*, Volume 4, Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Arthurs Lake, Bradys Lookout, Dome, Miena, Steppes, Wihareja.

Date last modified: 03/09/03