

Vallisneria australis



Vallisneria australis
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen

FAMILY: HYDROCHARITACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Vallisneria australis*,
S.W.L.Jacobs & Les, *Syst. Bot.* 33(1): 62 (2008)

COMMON NAME: River ribbons

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

Vallisneria australis is a densely clustered perennial aquatic herb, rooted and submerged in flowing, fresh water and forming slender trailing stems that root at the tips. **Leaves:** The leaves are long and strap-like, with narrow translucent sheaths at the base. The blades are also long and narrow with parallel margins, or gradually widening above, erect, but with the top end floating on the surface of the water (between 15 to 100 cm long or longer, 1 to 2.6 cm broad). The tips are rounded and minutely serrate, green and membranous, but usually covered with brown slime and silt. **Flowers:** Plants have either male or female flowers. Flowers on the male plants are abundant, minute and clustered in the leaf axils. The female flowers are solitary, several together in the leaf axils, supported on a slender stem which extends to the surface of the water. The mature female flowers float. After fertilisation, the flower stalks coil loosely and take the developing fruit into the water. Flowering occurs between November to June. **Fruit:** The fruit is narrow-cylindrical and 3 to 9 cm long and 4 mm wide. Fruit are seen from November to June (description from Curtis & Morris 1994 and Walsh & Entwisle 1994).

This species has previously been known variously as *Vallisneria americana*, *Vallisneria gigantea* or *Vallisneria spiralis* (Les et al. 2008).

Distribution and Habitat

Vallisneria australis occurs in all Australian states (Curtis & Morris 1994). In Tasmania it is found in riparian situations in the north, northeast, midlands and southeast.

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include the Jordan River in the Brighton/Pontville area, Macquarie River at Ross, Meander River at the Westwood Road bridge and Ringarooma Marshes.

Known Reserves

Vallisneria australis is reserved in Cameron Regional Reserve.

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

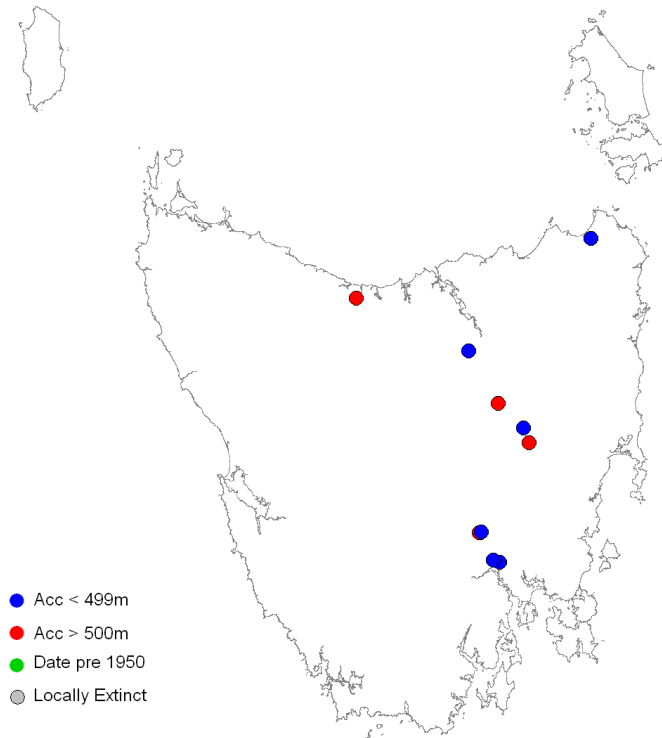
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Vallisneria australis*. Published works and anecdotal reports indicate that the species may be more widespread than the mapped distribution indicates, e.g., South Esk and Tamar Rivers, Lake Leake (Hughes 1989).

Further Information

- Curtis, W.M., & Morris, D.I. (1994). *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B. Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Hughes, J.M.R. (1989). *Aquatic Plants of Tasmania*. University of Melbourne Press, Melbourne.
- Les, D.H., Jacobs, S.W.L., Tippery, N.P., Chen, L., Moody, M.L. & Wilstermann-Hildebrand, M. (2008). Systematics of *Vallisneria* (Hydrocharitaceae). *Systematic Botany* 33(1): 49–65.
- Walsh, N.G., & Entwisle T.J., (1994). *Flora of Victoria, Volume 2*. Inkata Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Section records, April 2010)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Broadmarsh, Cleveland, Jacobs, Kempton, Kindred, Prospect, Ross, Tea Tree, Tomahawk.

Date last modified: 27/04/2010

View

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

Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 6233 6556; fax (03) 6233 3477.

Permit

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