

Veronica novae-hollandiae



Veronica novae-hollandiae
R. Schahinger

FAMILY: SCROPHULARIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Veronica novae-hollandiae*
Poiret in Lam., *Encycl. Méth. Bot.* 8: 526 (1808)

COMMON NAME: Coast speedwell

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) vulnerable

Description

A perennial herb with slender rhizomes creeping below or just above the ground surface. **Stems:** The aerial stems are hairy and between 2–30 cm long. They are erect or ascending. **Leaves:** The lower leaves are shortly stalked, while the upper ones are stalkless. The leaf blades are ovate, 10–18 mm long, and have coarsely serrated margins. The upper leaf surface has a few scattered hairs, while the lower leaf is pubescent. **Flowers:** The corolla lobes are 8–10 mm long, and are pale lilac-pink in colour, sometimes with crimson streaks. Flowers are arranged in lateral racemes, or may be reduced to a solitary terminal flower in dwarf specimens. **Fruit:** The fruit is a broadly obcordate capsule that may have a few scattered hairs (description from Curtis 1967). **This species was previously known as *Veronica distans* var. *pubescens*.**

Distribution and Habitat

Veronica novae-hollandiae is endemic to Tasmania. The species has been recorded along the State's west and southwest coasts between the Italian River and Cockle Creek, where it grows in sandy littoral banks and herbfields. Co-occurring species include the herbs *Nablonium calyceroides*, *Leptinella reptans* and *Senecio spathulatus*, and the grass *Distichlis distichophylla*.

Key Sites and Populations

Italian–Lagoon River area, Hartwell Cove, Wallaby Bay, Cox Bight, Deadmans Bay.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area, Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park and Southwest National Park.

Ecology and Management

The species' dune habitat in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area is threatened by physical disturbance from cattle and off-road vehicles (Schahinger 2002), allowing the spread of the invasive sea spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*).

Insects are the most likely pollination vectors for this species (A. Hingston, pers. comm.).



Veronica novae-hollandiae habitat near the Italian River being invaded by sea spurge (R. Schahinger).

Conservation Status Assessment

Targeted surveys are required of known sites to the south of the Pieman River to determine the impact of sea spurge. Extension surveys are also required of coastal regions of the State's southwest.

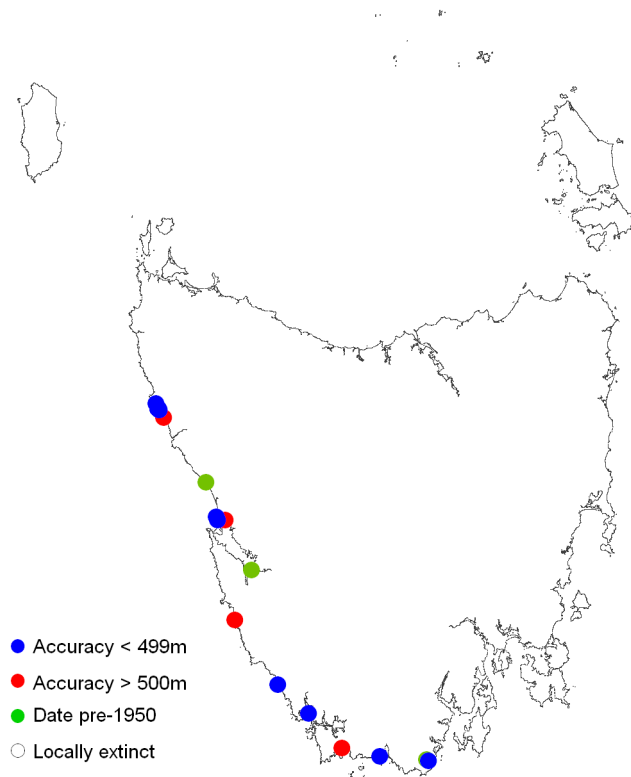
Veronica novae-hollandiae may qualify for downlisting to rare depending upon the results of the aforementioned surveys.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania, Part 3*, Government Printer, Tasmania.
- Schahinger, R 2002, *Near-Coastal Native Grasslands of Northwestern Tasmania: Community Description, Distribution and Conservation Status, with Management Recommendations*, Nature Conservation Report 02/10, Nature Conservation Branch, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Section, February 2008)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Bellinger, Birchs, Breaksea, Cox, Interview, Johnsons Bay, Montgomery, Mulcahy, Precipitous, Recherche, Strahan, Trial.

Date last modified: 26/02/2008

View

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

Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries and Water, 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.