

# *Viola hederacea* subsp. *curtisiae*



Image by Miguel de Salas  
(Tasmanian Herbarium)

**FAMILY:** VIOLACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Viola hederacea* subsp. *curtisiae* L.G.Adams, *Fl. Australia* 8: 386 (1982)

**COMMON NAME:** montane ivyleaf violet

**COMMONWEALTH STATUS (EPBC Act):**  
Not Listed

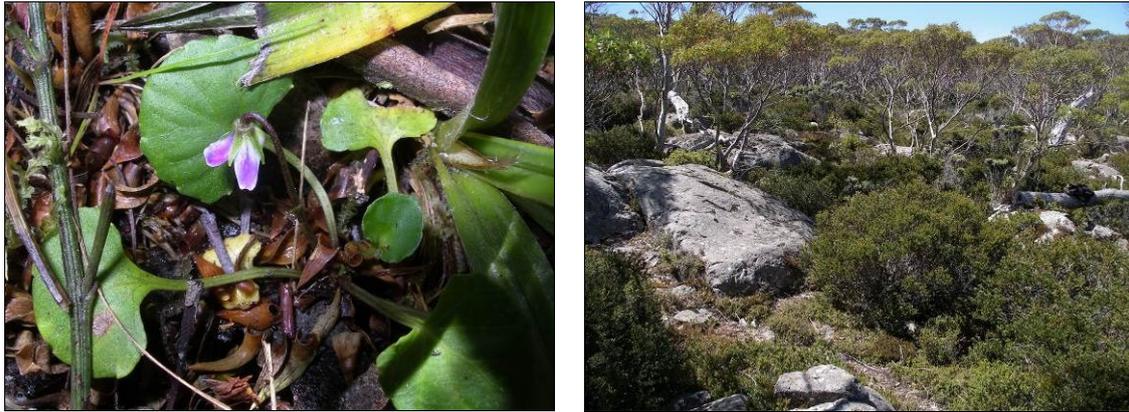
**TASMANIAN STATUS (TSP Act):** rare

## Description

*Viola hederacea* subsp. *curtisiae* is a stoloniferous perennial herb. Leaves tufted; stipules usually red-brown, to 5 mm long, free, lacinate; petioles longer than the lamina, 2 to 3 (to 7) cm long, glabrous or occasionally with short stiff patent hairs; leaf lamina broadly ovate to ovate-rhomboid (becoming rather cordate in shade); base shortly cuneate, truncate or shallowly cordate, apex obtuse, margins shallowly crenate, 2.5 to 20 mm long, 2.5 to 30 mm wide, glabrous or occasionally with short stout hairs. Flower scapes 1 to 1.5 (to 2.5) cm long, about as long as leaves, two linear bracteoles near the middle. Flowers 5-merous; sepals lanceolate, 3 to 3.5 mm long. Corolla concolorous or discolorous, blue-violet to violet externally, cream internally with faint markings; petals 5 to 6 mm long, all emarginate or shortly bilobed, glabrous; anterior petal without spur. Fruit a globose to cylindrical capsule, glabrous or pubescent, elastically dehiscent into three boat-shaped valves, sometimes explosively, with two to many seeds. Flowering and fruiting December to February (description from Adams & George (1982), Duretto (2009), pers. obs.). **Confusing species:** Distinguished from other *Viola* taxa in Tasmania by the following combination of characters: stoloniferous, anterior petal not spurred, petals emarginate to shortly bilobed, petals glabrous. *Viola* subsp. *hederacea* has flower scapes that are typically longer than the leaves, a markedly discolorous corolla (pale with darker violet blotches), and lateral petals that are entire and bearded.

## Distribution and Habitat

Duretto (2009) noted that *Viola hederacea* subsp. *curtisiae* was similar to a form found in Victoria on the Baw Baw Plateau and Bogong High Plains. Recent studies have concluded that the Tasmanian and Victorian material are attributable to the same taxon, with specific status likely in the near future (de Salas 2018, pers. comm.).



**Figure 1.** *Viola hederacea* subsp. *curtisiae*: habit & habitat (*Eucalyptus coccifera* low woodland at Big Bend, Mount Wellington) (images by Richard Schahinger)

In Tasmania *Viola hederacea* subsp. *curtisiae* has been recorded from Mount Field National Park (between Lake Dobson and the Mawson Plateau) and the Wellington Range (Big Bend, The Lectern).

The taxon grows in subalpine *Eucalyptus coccifera* woodland. The underlying substrate is Jurassic dolerite, and the altitude range of known occurrences 1050 to 1200 metres above sea level. Associated species at Mount Field include *Richea pandanifolia*, *Cyathodes straminea*, *Coprosma nitida*, *Gaultheria hispida*, *Leptecophylla parviflorus*, *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, *Orites diversifolia*, *Orites revoluta*, *Telopea truncata* and *Trochocarpa thymifolia*, while at the Big Bend site species include *Orites revoluta*, *Leptecophylla parviflorus*, *Ozothamnus ledifolius*, *Tasmannia lanceolata*, *Trochocarpa thymifolia*, *Coprosma nitida*, *Exocarpos humifusus*, *Astelia alpina* and *Gonocarpus montanus*.

### **Key Sites and Populations**

Mount Field, Wellington Range.

### **Known Reserves**

All known occurrences are within Mount Field National Park or Wellington Park.

### **Ecology and Management**

There is little information as to the species' ecological requirements in Tasmania. Surveys of known sites are required to inform management, including the relative impacts of threatening processes, the species' response to disturbance such as fire, as well as seed viability, germination, dormancy and longevity.

### **Conservation Status Assessment**

*Viola hederacea* subsp. *curtisiae* was listed as rare on the original schedules of the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, at which time it was known from just a few collections from Mount Field National Park (dating from 1948 to 1979), with no indication as to its extent or abundance. Targeted surveys in December 2017 by Tasmanian Herbarium personnel relocated the taxon at Mount Field, finding it to be 'abundant' along the margins of the 4WD track from Lake Dobson to the Mawson Plateau (de Salas 2018, pers. comm.). In addition, a 1982 collection held at the Tasmanian Herbarium from 'The Lectern' near Mount Wellington was redetermined

to be subsp. *curtisiae*, and in early January 2018 the taxon was found closer to the summit of Mount Wellington near Big Bend.

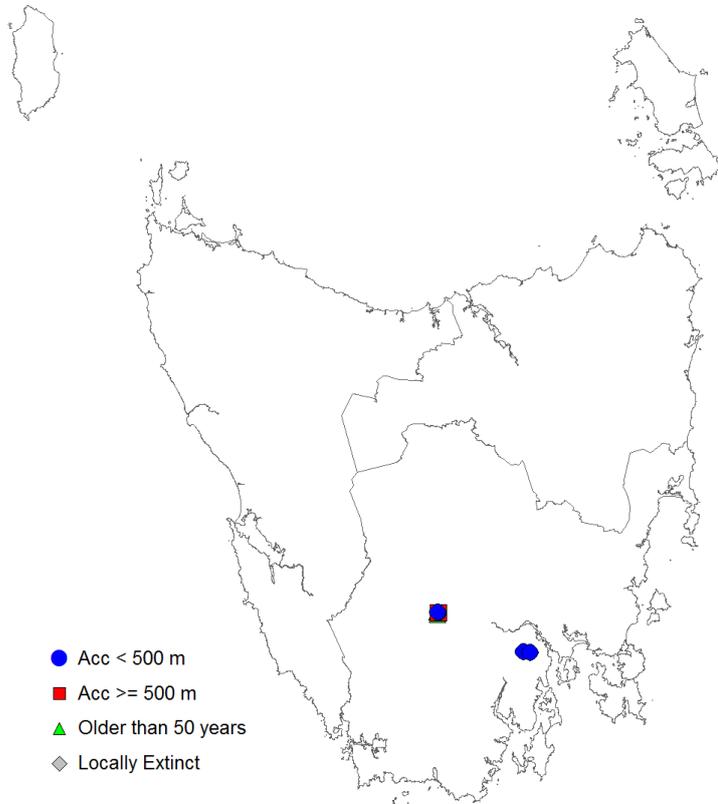
It is considered highly likely that *Viola hederacea* subsp. *curtisiae* is more widespread in Tasmania. Surveys of potential habitat are required before a meaningful reassessment of its conservation status can be undertaken.

### **Further Information**

- Adams, L.G. & George A.S. (1982). Violaceae. *Flora of Australia* 8: 91–110.
- de Salas, M.F. & Baker, M.L. (2017). *A Census of the Vascular Plants of Tasmania, Including Macquarie Island*. (Tasmanian Herbarium, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart) [www.tmag.tas.gov.au](http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au)
- Duretto, M.F. (2009). 79 Violaceae, version 2009:1. In MF Duretto (Ed.) *Flora of Tasmania Online*. 7 pp. (Tasmanian Herbarium, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery: Hobart). ISBN 978-1-921599-20-0 (PDF). [www.tmag.tas.gov.au/floratasmania](http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au/floratasmania).

## Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Section records, January 2018)



### 1:25 000 Map sheets

Collinsvale, Dobson.

Date last modified: 29/01/2018

### Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2018). *Notesheet for Viola hederacea* subsp. *curtisiae* (*montane ivyleaf violet*). Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.

### View

[www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists](http://www.dpipwe.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 1300 368 550.

### Permit

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