

Vittadinia gracilis



Vittadinia gracilis.
H&A Wapstra.

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Vittadinia gracilis*,
(Hook.f.) N.Burb., *Brunonia* 5: 54 (1982)

COMMON NAME: Woolly New Holland
daisy

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A perennial herb with woody stems up to 40 cm high. **Leaves:** The leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. They are between 5-30 mm long and can be variable in shape (usually three lobed at the tip, greyish and covered with thick woolly hairs). **Flowers:** The flower heads are numerous, purple, mauve or white with a yellow centre and borne singly at the ends of leafy stalks between 6-10 cm long. Flowering occurs mainly in spring. **Fruit:** The seeds are narrow, linear-wedge shaped, 4-7 mm long with a crown of numerous bristles as long as or longer than the seed. Herbarium specimens have been collected from October to April. **Confusing species:** This species is similar in appearance to *Vittadinia cuneata* but is distinguished by the presence of thick woolly hairs on the leaves which give *Vittadinia gracilis* a greyish appearance, whereas the short rigid hairs of *Vittadinia cuneata* give it a greyish-green appearance (description from Cunningham *et al.* 1992, Kirkpatrick *et al.* 1998). **This species was previously known as *Vittadinia triloba* var. *lanuginosa*.**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. In Tasmania, *Vittadinia gracilis* is known from dry sites on dolerite and basalt. It is predominantly found in dry sclerophyll forest around Hobart, into the Midlands and extending up into the north-east (Duncan & Johnson 1995, TPLUC 1996).



Vittadinia gracilis.
N. Lawrence.

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Knights Point, near Bridgewater, Glen Leith near New Norfolk, Rokeby, Risdon, Penquite (Launceston), Triabunna, Lime Kilns (road to New Norfolk), Queens Domain (Hobart), Meadowbank Dam Road from Lyell Highway, Old Beach, Derwent River on south side of Clarries Creek, Ross Cemetery, Kempton (St Marys Church of England cemetery), York Plains Road, Tea Tree, Plenty, Dysart and Hamilton.

Known Reserves

This species is not currently known from any reserve.

Ecology and Management

This species is threatened by grazing, however construction of quarries and tracks (which create bare ground) are beneficial due to a reduction in competition (TPLUC 1996).

The species appears to have become extinct in the Launceston area.

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

Conservation Status Assessment

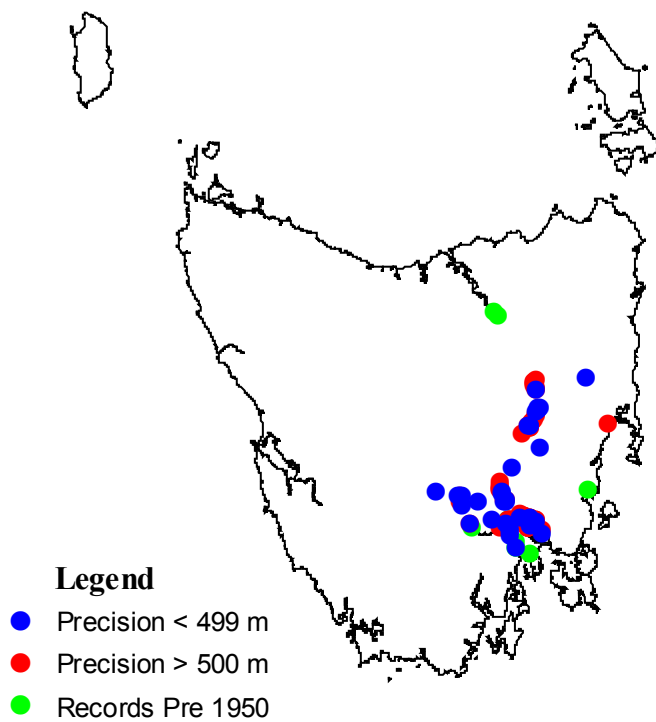
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Vittadinia gracilis*.

Further Information

- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Duncan, F & Johnson, K 1995, *Forest Practices Forest Botany Manual, Nature Conservation Region 4*, Forestry Tasmania, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Gilfedder L & Fensham RJ 1988, *City Parks and Cemeteries: Tasmania's Remnant Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Hobart.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Broadmarsh, Conara, Elderslie, Ellinthorp, Faddens, Hamilton, Hobart, Jacobs, Kempton, Launceston, New Norfolk, Ouse, Richmond, Ross, Roys, Sorell, Stonor, Swansea, Tea Tree, Triabunna, Tunbridge, Uxbridge.

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