

Xerochrysum bicolor



Xerochrysum bicolor. R. Barnes.

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Xerochrysum bicolor*, (Lindl.) R.J.Bayer, *Kew Bull.* 56(4): 1014 (2001)

COMMON NAME: White alpine everlasting

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

An annual or perennial herb with a slender, woody tap root. **Stems:** The stem is erect, leafy, branched and rough to the touch (between 30-80 cm tall). **Leaves:** The leaves are long and narrow, between 3-8 cm long, with a pointed tip and rounded base. Both surfaces of the leaves are rough due to the presence of stalked, glandular hairs. **Flowers:** The flowers are yellow or golden-yellow in colour and shiny. They are solitary and found on the end of the branches. **Fruit:** The fruit is a small, dry structure (that does not split) that is roughly oval in shape and slightly flattened. The pappus (ring of scales or hairs found on top of fruit) is often pale yellow with minute, fine barbs (description from Curtis 1963). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from October to March. **This species was previously called *Helichrysum bicolor*, then *Bracteantha bicolor* and now *Xerochrysum bicolor*.**

Distribution and Habitat

Xerochrysum bicolor is found on the mainland though its distribution requires clarification due to taxonomic uncertainty. In Tasmania, this species is recorded from heathland near the coast in the north-east, and in alpine situations (Curtis 1963).

Key Sites and Populations

This species has been recorded from the First Basin in Launceston, Seven Mile Beach, near the Shot Tower in Taroona, Great Lake on the Central Plateau, Mile Island/Green Island off the west coast of Flinders Island, Mt William National Park on a promontory east of Larc Beach (Eddystone Point), Little Badger Island in the Chappell Islands group, Maatsuyker Island and Mt. Roland.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area, Cameron Regional Reserve, Chappell Islands Nature Reserve, Mayfield Bay Conservation Area, Mile Island Conservation Area, Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve, Mount Roland Regional Reserve, Mount William National Park, Mussleroe Bay Conservation Area, Seven Mile Beach Protected Area, Southwest National Park, Waterhouse Conservation Area and the West Point State Reserve.

Ecology and Management

The taxonomy and distribution of *Xerochrysum bicolor* requires clarification.

The species requires disturbance and bare ground for regeneration. Grazing and burning may be beneficial to this species, by reducing competing vegetation, especially grasses (L. Gilfedder pers. comm).

Conservation Status Assessment

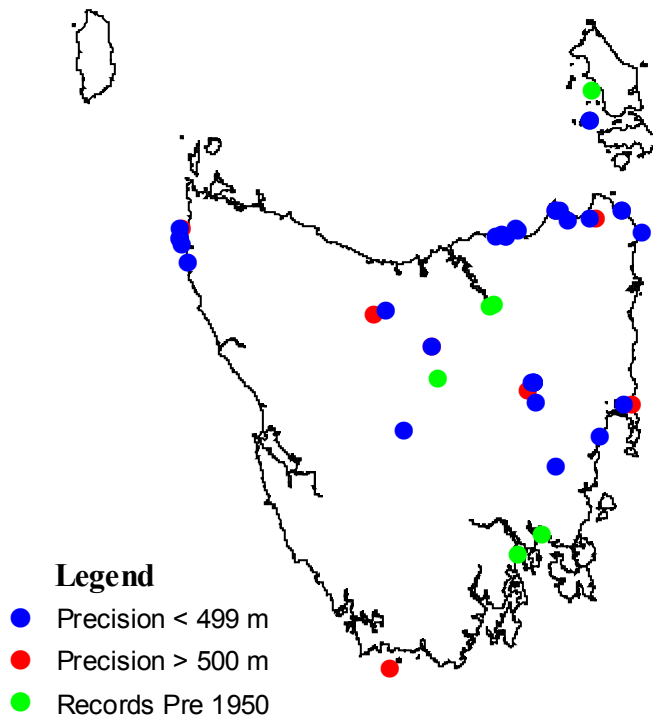
There is not enough information available to enable meaningful reassessment of *Xerochrysum bicolor*. This species is undergoing taxonomic review - taxonomic issues have not yet been resolved.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 2, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Barker, P, Brown, MJ, Harris, S & Mackie, R 1994, *The Reservation Status of Tasmanian Vascular Plant Communities*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust Incorporated, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Badger, Bluff, Bowood, Bridport, Carlton, Cethana, Conara, De Witt, Eddystone, Friendly, Jacobs, Launceston, Marawah, Mayfield, Musselroe, Quamby Bluff, Ross, Split Rock, Sundown, Tam O'Shanter, Tarooana, Tomahawk, Waterhouse, Weymouth, Whiteford, Whitemark.

Date last modified: 15/07/2005