

Ballantinia antipoda



Ballantinia antipoda.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen

FAMILY: BRASSICACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Ballantinia antipoda*,
(F.Muell.) E.Shaw, *Contr. Gray Herb.* 205:
161 (1974)

COMMON NAME: Southern ballantine

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Endangered

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) presumed
extinct

Description

A small annual herb that is covered with short, star-shaped hairs. **Stems:** The stems are erect or sloping upward and between 2-10 cm tall. **Leaves:** The lower leaves are up to 2 cm long, stalked and lance to oval in shape (sometimes divided into lobes) with toothed margins. The upper leaves are smaller and linear-shaped with entire margins. **Flowers:** The flowers are cross-shaped, small, white, inconspicuous and arranged in a spike with the oldest flower usually at the base (raceme). The leafy structures surrounding the petals (sepals) are round and approximately 1 mm long. The petals are between 1.3-2 mm long and heart-shaped. Flowering occurs from winter to spring (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is a pod, which is slightly flattened, two-chambered and between 3-5 mm long. The pod contains flattened, oval seeds that are approximately 1 mm long (description from Curtis & Morris 1975, Kirkpatrick 1988, Leigh *et al.* 1984). **This species was previously known as *Cuphonotus antipodus*.**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria. In Tasmania, *Ballantinia antipoda* is presumed extinct and was known from dry, stony sites and the banks of streams around the Glen Leith/Macquarie Plains area towards Bushy Park (Curtis & Morris 1975, Kirkpatrick 1988, Leigh *et al.* 1984).

Key Sites and Populations

This species is presumed extinct. There is currently no information available regarding the key sites and the number of populations and/or individuals for this species.



Ballantinia antipoda. R. Hale

Known Reserves

Ballantinia antipoda is not currently known from any reserve.

Ecology and Management

It appears that grazing from domestic stock and rabbits were the major causes of extinction for *Ballantinia antipoda*, as members of the Brassicaceae family are very palatable to animals (Leigh *et al.* 1984).

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

Conservation Status Assessment

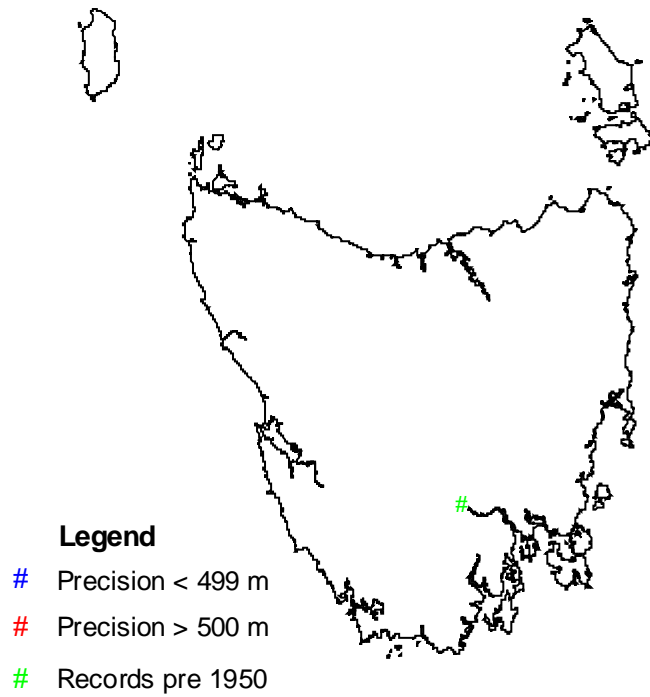
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Ballantinia antipoda*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 1, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Gilfedder L & Fensham RJ 1988, *City Parks and Cemeteries: Tasmania's Remnant Grasslands and Grassy Woodlands*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Hobart.
- Leigh J, Boden, R & Briggs, J 1984, *Extinct and Endangered Plants of Australia*, Macmillan, Melbourne.
- 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

Bushy Park.

Date last modified: 02/09/03