

Brachyscome radicata



Brachyscome radicata.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Brachyscome radicata*,
Hook.f., *Fl. Nov.-Zel.* 1: 127 (1852)

COMMON NAME: Rooted daisy

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A perennial herb with a short root that produces several aerial shoots. The aerial stems are erect or sloping upward and often branched from the base, which can be secreting oil and covered in tiny hairs. **Leaves:** The leaves arise from the base of the plant (a basal rosette) and are also borne on the aerial part of the stem. They are also broader towards the tip and coarsely toothed in the upper half. The base of the leaves narrows into a broad stalk that attaches to the main stem (petiole). Leaves arising from the base of the stem are up to 10 cm long. **Flowers:** The flower heads are arranged at the ends of the branches and consist of ray florets (outer florets of the flower head) that are white or violet and ligules (strap-shaped structures) that are up to 3.5 mm long. **Fruit:** The fruit is a small, dry structure (that does not split) that is roughly oval in shape and slightly flattened. It is dark brown to black in colour. The pappus (ring of scales or hairs found on top of fruit) is short but conspicuous, irregular in length and spreading (description from Curtis 1963). Herbarium specimens have been collected from November to February.

Distribution and Habitat

This species is not known from the mainland of Australia, however it is found in New Zealand and Tasmania. It has been recorded from the foothills of Mt Wellington in Hobart and from montane grassland near Cradle Mountain. Its habitat also extends to shrubby forest and wet sclerophyll forest in the east (Curtis 1963, Kirkpatrick 1991).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Lake Ayr, Sawpits on Mt Wellington, between Cradle Mountain and Moina, Allwrights Lagoons (5 km NNE of Waddamana) and the hill between Bellerive and Rosny Park, Hobart.

Known Reserves

Reserved in Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park, Wellington Park, Dickies Ridge Forest Reserve and Freycinet National Park.

Ecology and Management

This species reproduces vegetatively from stolons and is threatened due to the low number of extant populations. Further survey is required to provide information for management purposes (TPLUC 1996).

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

Conservation Status Assessment

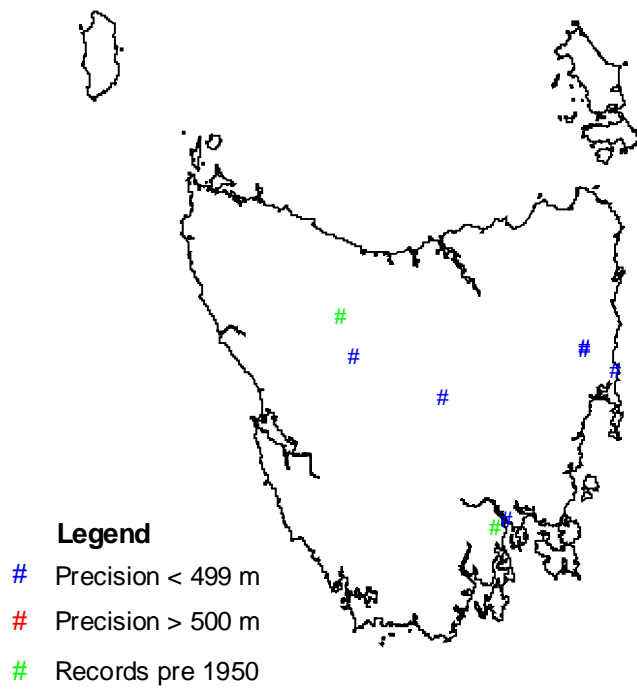
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Brachyscome radicata*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 2, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1991, *Tasmanian Native Bush: A Management Handbook*, Tasmanian Environment Centre, Hobart.
- Mark, AF & Adams, NM 1973, *New Zealand Alpine Plants*, Reed, Methuen.
- 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

Cathedral, Hobart, Lodi, Pencil Pine, St John, Tarooma, Wihareja.

Date last modified: 02/09/03