

Argyrotegium poliochlorum



Argyrotegium poliochlorum. E. Mayfield.
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FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Argyrotegium poliochlorum* (N.G.Walsh) J.M.Ward & Breitw., *N.Z. J. Bot.* 41: 609 (2003)

COMMON NAME: Grey-green cudweed

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

This *Argyrotegium* species is a perennial herb with rhizomes (underground stems) that sometimes form loose mats. **Leaves:** The leaves are mostly crowded at the base of the plant. The lower leaves are narrow and roughly spoon-shaped, they usually have a stalk-like base and the leaves end in a thick, hairless point. The leaves are between 1.5-3.5 cm long and between 1.5-4 mm wide. The surfaces are grey-green with moderately dense cottony hairs. **Flowers:** The flowering stems are unbranched and erect, between 4-12 cm long and densely white and cottony with 6-12 leaves that reduce towards the inflorescence. The inflorescence consists of between 3-5 flowers that are arranged in a raceme (succession of flowers, the oldest at the base). Each flower head has a leaf-like bract at the base. The flower heads are cylindrical, the bracts associated with the flower are translucent, brownish-green near the base and usually have a reddish band near the middle. The outermost bracts are sparsely cottony near the base, the inner bracts are more or less hairless. Flowering is from December to February (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit are narrowly oval and between 1.4-1.6 mm long and 0.4-0.6 mm wide, flattened, smooth and hairless. The pappus (ring of scales or hairs found on top of fruit) consists of between 30-50 slender barbed bristles, which are 4-5 mm long and united at the base (description from Walsh 1999). **This species was previously known as *Gnaphalium supinum* (sensu W.M. Curtis 1963) and was later listed as *Euchiton* sp., then *Euchiton poliochlorus*. It was recognised that the material from the Tasmanian Herbarium previously held under the name of *Gnaphalium supinum* consisted of two different species: *Euchiton poliochlorus* and *Euchiton traversii*.**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in alpine and sub-alpine areas of the Southern tablelands of New South Wales, Mt Kosciuszko and Victoria. In Tasmania, *Argyrotegium poliochlorum* has been recorded from inter-tussock spaces within buttongrass moorland at 1070 metres in the Cradle Mountain region.

Key Sites and Populations

Cradle Mountain is a key site for this species.

Known Reserves

This species is reserved in the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park.

Ecology and Management

There is currently no information available regarding the ecology and management of this species.

Conservation Status Assessment

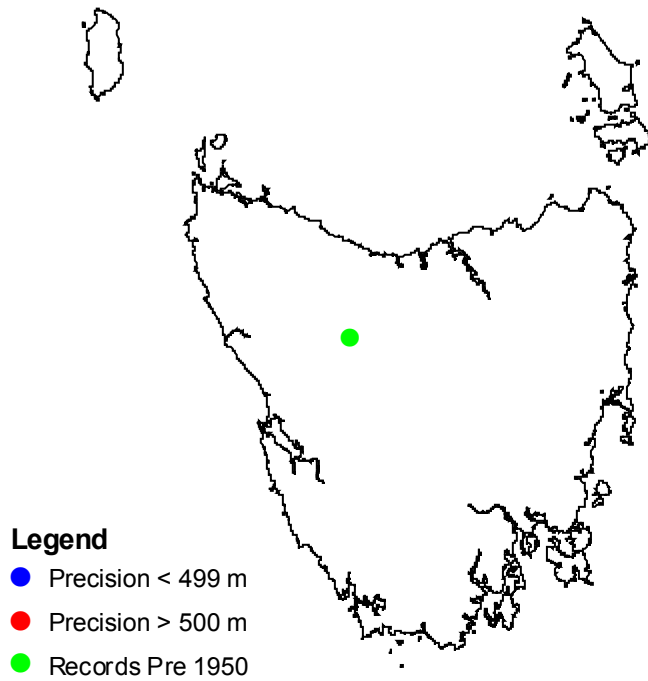
Reassessment of *Argyrotegium poliochlorum* may be warranted due to the paucity of records though more information is required for a meaningful reassessment.

Further Information

- Walsh, NG & Entwistle, TJ eds 1999, *Flora of Victoria*, Volume 4, Inkata Press, Melbourne.
- Walsh, NG 1999, 'New Species in Asteraceae from the Subalps of Southeastern Australia', *Muelleria*, vol.12 (2), pp.223-228.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, July 2005)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Cradle.

Date last modified: 19/07/2005.