

Asperula minima



Asperula minima. H&A Wapstra.

FAMILY: RUBIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Asperula minima*,
Hook.f., *Hook. Lond. J. Bot.* 6: 464 bis
(1847)

COMMON NAME: mossy woodruff

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A small perennial plant with a branching rhizome (underground stem). **Stems:** The hairless stems are woody, between 5-6 cm and form matted patches that are a few centimetres in diameter. **Leaves:** The spreading leaves are in whorls of 6 or 8 and are stalkless (sessile). The leaves are about 2-4 mm long, wider towards the end of the leaf and are often tipped with a short, clear hair. The upper surface of the leaf is covered with short hairs that are rough to the touch. **Flowers:** The stalked flowers are solitary or in clusters of three. They are found in the axils (where the leaf meets the stem). The flowers are quite large when compared with the leaves. Flowering is from October to December (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is dry and does not split open. It consists of two, one-seeded parts (description from Curtis 1963, Willis 1972). See Thompson (2009) for an updated description and key. Herbarium specimens have been collected from October to March.

A distinctive feature of *Asperula minima* is the contrast between the the numerous minute hairs on the adaxial leaf surface and the few robust hairs on the abaxial midrib. It can be distinguished from the newly described *Asperula oblanceolata* by its smaller flowers and leaves that are narrower, more commonly narrow-elliptic with a moderately hairy upper surface (Thompson 2009).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland *Asperula minima* occurs in Victoria. In Tasmania the species has been recorded from coastal communities, eucalypt forest and cleared forest pasture (Curtis 1963). It is a lowland species from northeastern Tasmania and the Furneaux Islands (Thompson 2009).

Key Sites and Populations

This species has been recorded from Port Effingham, Georgetown, the Meander and Mersey regions* and from Strzelecki National Parks and other regions of the Furneaux.



Asperula minima.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

Known Reserves

Known reserves include Central Plateau Conservation Area* and Strzelecki National Park on Flinders Island.

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Asperula minima*.

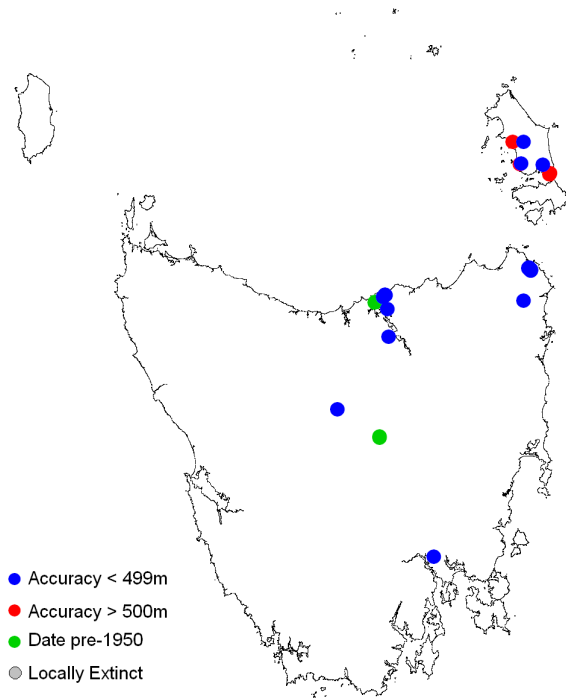
***Note that Thompson (2009) does not accept the 1840 records from the Central Highlands held at the Tasmanian Herbarium to be genuine. The record from near Hobart is unvouchered and cannot be verified. The distribution of the species in Tasmania will require verification.**

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 2, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Thompson, IR 2009, A revision of *Asperula* and *Galium* (Rubiaceae: Rubiaceae) in Australia, *Muellaria* vol .27(1), pp.36-112.
- Willis, JH 1972, *A Handbook of Plants in Victoria*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(From Natural Values Atlas Records, July 2008)*



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Arthurs Lake, Bell Bay, Exeter, Fisher, Lanka, Leventhorpe, Loccota, Low Head, Musselroe, Pillans, Quamby Bluff, Richmond.

Date last modified: 19/5/2009

View

<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

Contact details

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Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.