

Asperula scoparia var. *scoparia*



Asperula scoparia var. *scoparia*.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: RUBIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Asperula scoparia* var. *scoparia*, Hook.f., *Hook. Lond. J. Bot.* 6: 463 bis (1847)

COMMON NAME: Prickly woodruff

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A small perennial rhizomatous herb that forms moss-like masses (between 5-10 cm high). **Stems:** The leafy stems spread horizontally, slope upwards or stand erect. They are between 4-20 cm long with grooves and short hairs that are rough to the touch. The upper parts of the stem have short branches that slope upwards. **Leaves:** The leaves are in whorls of 6, linear, stalkless (sessile) and somewhat rigid. They are sometimes spreading or bent backwards with clear, hair-like tips. Both leaf surfaces are hairless, however the leaf margins are sometimes hairy and are bent under or flat. **Flowers:** The flowers are white and either solitary or in clusters of three. They are stalked and arise from the axils (where the leaf meets the stem) in the last whorl of leaves. Flowering is from September to February (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is dry and does not split open. It consists of two, one-seeded parts (description from Cochrane 1980, Curtis 1963, Willis 1972). See Thompson (2009) for an updated description and key.

Asperula scoparia var. *scoparia* is now recognised as *Asperula scoparia* subsp. *scoparia* (Thompson 2009). A distinctive longitudinal striping effect is apparent (with magnification) on the upper leaf surface of this subspecies and the lustrous upper surface does not dry dark as in general for *Asperula conferta*.

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. In Tasmania, *Asperula scoparia* var. *scoparia* is widespread but only occasionally found. It has been recorded from grassy woodland and tall eucalypt forest (Tasmanian Herbarium data 2002) often in hilly and rocky sites (Thompson 2009). No other varieties or subspecies of *Asperula scoparia* occur in Tasmania.

Key Sites and Populations

Early records (1830-40s) show that *Asperula scoparia* var. *scoparia* was located at Glen Leith, Marlborough, New Norfolk and on Flinders Island. More recent records include reports from Moulting Lagoon, White Lagoon and Chimney Pot Hill. The species now appears to be restricted to the south of the State.

Known Reserves

This species is reserved in the Gordons Hill Nature Recreation Area, Remarkable Rock Forest Reserve, the Steppes Conservation Area and Wayatinah Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

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

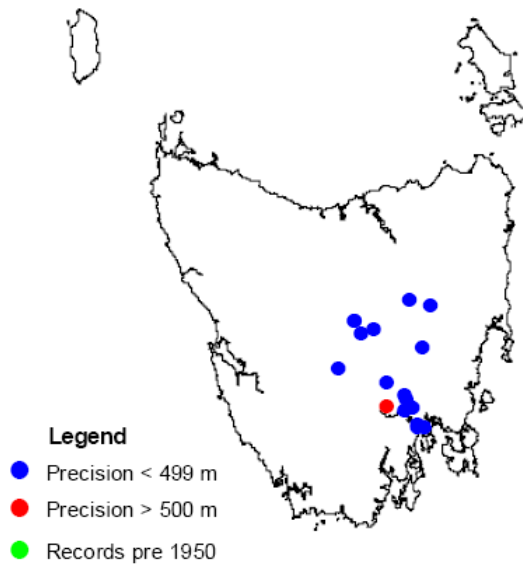
Conservation Status Assessment

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

Further Information

- Cochrane, GR, Fuhrer, BA, Rotherman, J, Rotherman M & Willis, JH 1980, *Flowers and Plants of Victoria and Tasmania*, Reed, Sydney.
- 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



(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003) More recent records including the Moulting Lagoon record are not mapped.

1:25 00 Map Sheets

Broadmarsh, Conara, Elderslie, Hobart, Jacobs, Kempton, Monpeelyata, New Norfolk, Richmond, Steppes, Strickland, Vincents, Waddamana.

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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.