

Asperula subsimplex



Asperula subsimplex.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: RUBIACEAE

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

COMMON NAME: water woodruff

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A small perennial herb of aquatic habit. **Stems:** This species has square stems that are between 10-20 cm long, hairless and usually erect. **Leaves:** The leaves are stalkless (sessile) and in whorls of 4, except below a branch where whorls of 6 can occur. The leaves are narrow-linear shaped and approximately 2-5 mm long. The leaves of the upper whorls are often shorter and broader than the rest and have rough, hairy upper surfaces. The upper surfaces of the lower whorls are usually hairless. The leaf margins are sometimes bent under. **Flowers:** The cream, very fragrant flowers are either solitary or in clusters of two to three-flowers located in the axils (where the leaf meets the stem) of the upper leaf whorls. Flowering is from October to February (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is dry and does not split open. It consists of two, one-seeded parts (description from Curtis 1963, Kirkpatrick 1988, Willis 1972). See Thompson (2009) for an updated description and key.

This species is readily identifiable by being near glabrous and its 4 leaf whorls, small dull leaves, few flowered clusters and ovary of female flowers with a recessed nectary after corolla-fall (Thompson2009).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria. In Tasmania, *Asperula subsimplex* inhabits damp areas, marshy places and riverbanks (Curtis 1963).



Asperula subsimplex. R. Hale.

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Robinsons Marsh, Lake Sorell, Little Hampton, Bellerive Swamp, the Neck at Circular Head, Gunns Lake, Central Plateau, Launceston, Brocks Swamp (Marsh), St Patricks River, Lake St Clair, Glen Morey Saltpan, near Tunbridge, Ross.

Known Reserves

Asperula subsimplex is known to occur in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area, Central Plateau Conservation Area, Foochow Conservation Area, Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, Great Western Tiers Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

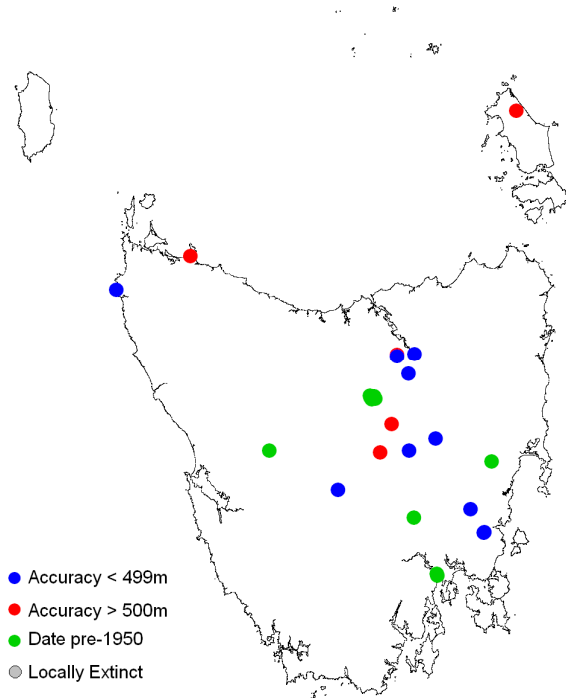
There is not enough information available to enable a meaningful reassessment of *Asperula subsimplex*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 2, 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.
- Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission 1996, *Environment & Heritage Report Vol IV, Background Report*, Part C, Tasmanian Commonwealth Regional Forest Agreement, 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

Bluff, Bradys Lookout, Colonels, Goulds, Hobart, Jacobs, Kempton, Launceston, Liffey, Longford, Orford, Patersonia, Penny, Poatina, Ross, Rufus, Stanley, Tarraleah, Tunbridge, Whitefoord, Wihareja, Wingaroo.

Date last modified: 19/5/2009.

View

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

Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries and Water, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 6233 6556; fax (03) 6233 3477.

Permit

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