

Calocephalus lacteus



Calocephalus lacteus. H & A Wapstra

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Calocephalus lacteus*, Less., *Syn. Gen. Compos.* 271 (1832)

COMMON NAME: Milky beauty heads

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A perennial herb, which forms dense patches 60 cm or more in diameter. The plant is covered with small white hairs so that its surface appears white or greyish. **Stems:** The aerial stem is erect and between 15-60 cm long. The stems are branched, white and densely covered in hairs. **Leaves:** The lower leaves are arranged oppositely along the stem and the upper leaves are arranged alternately. The leaves have a blunt tip that has a clear margin. They are between 1.5-5 cm long and densely covered with white hairs. **Flowers:** The flowers are at the ends of the branches in clusters of white, ovoid heads between 8-14 mm long. Flowering occurs between November to March and most herbarium specimens have been collected at this time. **Fruit:** The fruit is one-seeded and dry with a pappus (ring of scales or hairs found on top of fruit) (Curtis 1963).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria and South Australia. In Tasmania, *Calocephalus lacteus* is found in open grassland situations (Curtis 1963).

Key Sites and populations

Key sites include Skittleball Plains, White Lagoon and Township Lagoon Nature Reserve (Tunbridge), Strathallan Rivulet (Pontville), Brighton, Ross Bridge, Interlaken Road near Steppes, Launceston, Brighton, Jordan River, Ross, Bridgewater, Campbell Town, Jericho, Swansea, Mona Vale, Macquarie River and Cape Portland.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Cape Portland Private Sanctuary, The Steppes Conservation Area and the Township Lagoon Nature Reserve.



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Ecology and Management

This species requires bare ground for recruitment. Disturbance appears to be beneficial for this species as it is often found on roadsides and beside tracks (L. Gilfedder pers. comm).

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

Conservation Status Assessment

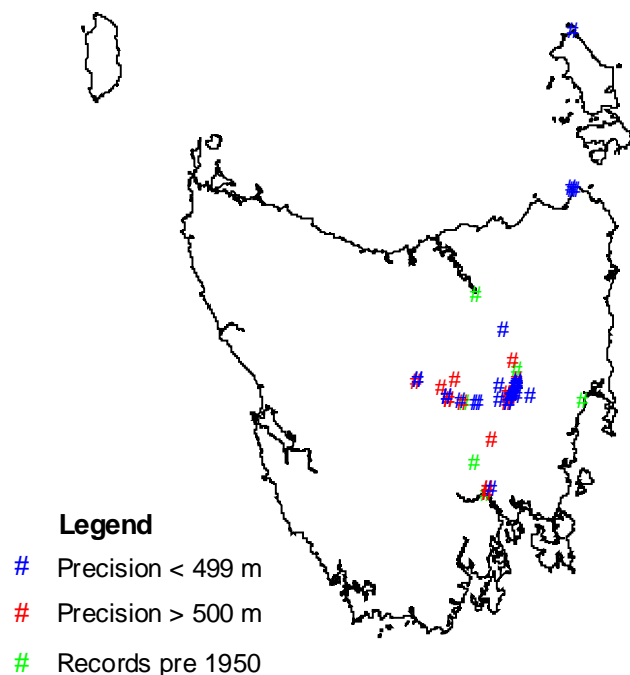
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Calocephalus lacteus*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 2, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB, Barker, P, Brown, MJ, Harris, S & Mackie, R 1994, *The Reservation Status of Tasmanian Vascular Plant Communities*, Tasmanian Conservation Trust Incorporated, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Arthurs Lake, Broadmarsh, Campbell Town, Conara, Ellinthorp, Interlaken, Kempton, Launceston, Lyme Regis, Miena, Morriston, New Norfolk, Nile, Ross, Sister, Steppes, Stonor, Swansea, Tea Tree, Tunbridge, Wihareja.

Date last modified: 03/09/03