

Isopogon ceratophyllus



Isopogon ceratophyllus.
H & A Wapstra.

FAMILY: PROTEACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Isopogon ceratophyllus*,
R.Br., *Trans. Linn. Soc. Bot.* 10: 72 (1810)

COMMON NAME: Horny cone bush

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) vulnerable

Description

A small shrub (between 6-60 cm tall) with a thick woody rootstock that forms dense, spiky tufts. **Leaves:** The leaves are crowded, rigid and between 4-8 cm long with stalks that are flattened and at least as long as the blade. The blades are arranged or divided into 2 or 3 narrow lobes. The lobes are widely spreading and sharp pointed. **Flowers:** The yellow flowers are in spherical cones that are situated at the ends of the branches and measure between 1.5-2 cm in diameter. The leaf-like structures associated with flowers (bracts) are spoon shaped and taper into a narrow point. They are approximately 8 mm long. The outer surface is densely shaggy in the lower parts and deciduous before the fruiting stage. The lobes of the flowers are hairless or with minute tufts of hair at the tips. Flowering is from July to January (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is densely covered with long silky hairs and is shorter than the bracts (description from Curtis 1967). Herbarium specimens have been collected from June to December.

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland *Isopogon ceratophyllus* occurs in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania this species, is found on acidic, sandy soils in dry heathlands around the Furneaux Group (Curtis 1967). The locality information is doubtful for the 1876 King Island record shown on the map.



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Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include Clarke Island, Cape Barren Island and Flinders Island. There are approximately 5 000 individual plants found on Clarke Island. Root rot (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) has had a lesser effect in this region due to its later settlement. Approximately 5 000 individuals can be found on Cape Barren Island, however this area has been heavily impacted upon by the root rot pathogen and is in decline. The situation is the same for Flinders Island although there are an estimated 10 000 individuals in this region (S. Harris pers. comm.).

Known Reserves

This species is reserved in the Brougham Sugarloaf Conservation Area, Clarke Island Nature Reserve, Darling Range Conservation Area, Strzelecki National Park and the Wingaroo Nature Reserve.

Ecology and Management

Measures need to be taken to slow or prevent the spread of root rot (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*), as *Isopogon ceratophyllus* is particularly susceptible. Occasional fires may also be required to ensure this species does not become out competed by taller species (Kirkpatrick 1991).

Conservation Status Assessment

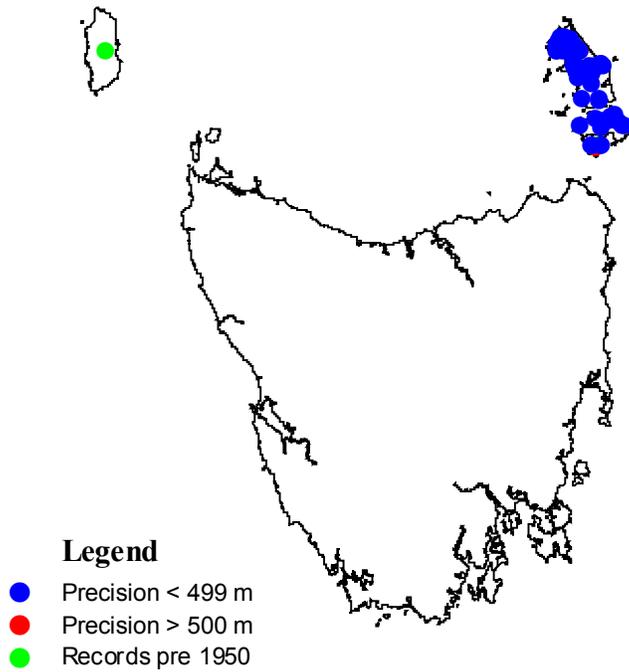
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Isopogon ceratophyllus*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 3, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1991, *Tasmanian Native Bush: A Management Handbook*, Tasmanian Environment Centre, Hobart.
- Strickland, K & P 1994, *Peninsular Plants*, Volume Two, Kareelah Bush Nursery, Melbourne.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, September 2002)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Anderson, Barretts, Emita, Fisher, Kerford, Leventhorpe, Loccota, Memana, Palana, Passage, Patriarchs, Preservation, Puncheon, Tanner, Whitemark, Wingaroo.

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