

Orites milliganii



Orites milliganii. N. Fitzgerald.

FAMILY: PROTEACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Orites milliganii*,
Meisn. in *DC. Prodr.* 14:424 (1856)

COMMON NAME: Milligan's orites

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A rigid, dense, upright shrub, usually up to 2 metres but may be taller in sheltered sites. **Leaves:** The leaves are oval-shaped, thick and rigid with coarsely toothed margins and sharply pointed tips. They are also shortly stalked and measure between 1.5-3 cm long. **Flowers:** The scented, cream flowers are together in pairs, stalkless and arranged in succession along a very short, thick and hairy flowering stem, with the oldest flowers usually at the base (spike). The spikes are between 2-6 cm long and found at the ends of the branches. **Fruit:** The fruit are hairless and dry and split open along one side (follicle). They are approximately 1.5 cm long and broadly oblong-elliptical in outline. The fruit have a short, straight, prominent point (beak). The seeds are almost circular and surrounded by a wing that is wider on one side (description from Curtis 1967, Kirkpatrick 1997). Most herbarium specimens have been collected in summer.

Distribution and Habitat

This species is endemic to Tasmania and is found as a component of alpine, coniferous and deciduous heath on some of the far western mountains (Kirkpatrick 1997).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include The Thumbs, Frenchmans Cap range near Barron Pass, the summit of Walford Peak (West Coast Ranges), Mt. Read, Mt. Dundas, Mt La Perouse, Frenchmans Cap area, Mt Tyndall, Double Peak, Mount Murchison, Precipitous Bluff, Lake Mary (Tyndall Range), Pindars Peak (east ridge), Mt. Sedgewick (Queenstown), Sticht Range (20km south of Tullah), east of Lonely Tarns (Mt. Anne Plateau), Maxwell Ridge, Denison Range, Great Dome, Greystone Bluff (near Scoparia Head), Sanctuary Lake, Mt Curly and north of Lake Huntley.

Known Reserves

Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park, Lake Beatrice Conservation Area, Mount Dundas Regional Reserve, Mount Murchison Regional Reserve, Southwest National Park and the Tyndall Regional Reserve.

Ecology and Management

The Lake Johnson Nature Reserve is part of an area that provides a stronghold for this species. *Orites milliganii* is incorporated within the Lake Johnson Draft Management Plan, which amongst other objectives seeks to protect, maintain and monitor this and other threatened species (Lake Johnston Draft Management Plan 1999).

Conservation Status Assessment

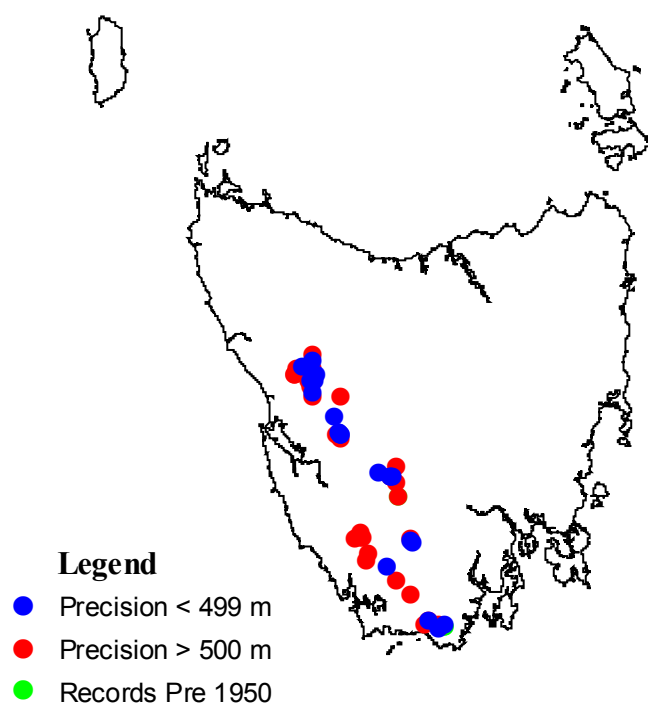
There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Orites milliganii*.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 3, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1997, *Alpine Tasmania*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Parks & Wildlife Service 1999, *Lake Johnston Draft Management Plan*, Department of Primary Industries, Water & Environment, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Anne, Collingwood, Crossing, Dundas, Federation, Glovers, Gordonvale, Gormanston, Goulds, Maconochie, Precipitous, Rookery, Selina, Solitary, Spires, Tiger, Tullah, Tyndall, Vera, Wylds.

Date last modified: 12/05/03