**Family:** Violaceae

**Botanical Name:** Viola cunninghamii

Hook. f., Bot. Antarct. Voy. II. (Fl. Nov.-Zel.) 1: 16 (1852)

**Common Name:** Alpine violet

**Commonwealth Status (EPBC Act):** Not Listed

**Tasmanian Status (TSP Act):** rare

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**Description**

*Viola cunninghamii* is a perennial herb with a slender, branched rhizome. Its leaves grow in a tufted rosette; blades triangular-ovate to sub-orbicular, c. 10 to 20 mm in diameter, with obscurely crenate margins; stalk longer than blade. Flowers occur singly on stalks that are longer than the leaves; flowers white or pale violet, 6 to 10 mm long, the anterior (rear) petal with a short, blunt spur. Fruit a capsule, opening into three valves. (description from Curtis & Morris 1975 and Kirkpatrick 1997). Flowering period: November to February (?). **Confusing species:** *Viola cunninghamii* may be distinguished from other *Viola* species in Tasmania by its rhizomatous character, its spurred anterior petal (rather than merely pouched), and its rounded leaves (cf. lanceolate or oblong).

**Distribution and Habitat**

*Viola cunninghamii* is known from New Zealand and Tasmania (Curtis & Morris 1975). Its habitat in Tasmania has been described as ‘… short alpine herbfld, grassland and grassy heath in the higher parts of the eastern and central mountains’ (Kirkpatrick 1997).

**Key Sites and Populations**

Insufficient information.

**Known Reserves**

Central Plateau Conservation Area, Devils Gullet State Reserve, Great Western Tiers Conservation Area, Mount Field National Park, Vale of Belvoir Conservation Area, Walls of Jerusalem National Park.

**Ecology and Management**

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

Conservation Status Assessment
The true status of *Viola cunninghamii* in Tasmania has been shrouded in confusion since its listing on the TSP Act in 1995, primarily due to the presence in DPIPWE’s Natural Values Atlas database of numerous unvoucheded records from lowland sites, well removed from its purported sub-alpine habitat; all lowland records have been flagged as ‘bad’ in the Natural Values Atlas (as at October 2012). Reassessment of the species’ conservation status on the TSP Act may be warranted, though in the first instance surveys are required of recorded subalpine sites to determine their veracity, status and extent.

Further Information
**Tasmanian Distribution**
(As per Threatened Species Section records, December 2012)

![Map of Tasmanian Distribution](image)

**1:25 000 Map Sheets**

Date last modified: 7/01/2013

**View**

**Contact details**
Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment, 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.

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*Viola cunninghamii*

*Threatened Flora of Tasmania*