Vittadinia gracilis

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE


COMMON NAME: Woolly New Holland daisy

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (EPBC Act) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (TSP Act) rare

Description
A perennial herb with woody stems up to 40 cm high. Leaves: The leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. They are between 5-30 mm long and can be variable in shape (usually three lobed at the tip, greyish and covered with thick woolly hairs). Flowers: The flower heads are numerous, purple, mauve or white with a yellow centre and borne singly at the ends of leafy stalks between 6-10 cm long. Flowering occurs mainly in spring. Fruit: The seeds are narrow, linear-wedge shaped, 4-7 mm long with a crown of numerous bristles as long as or longer than the seed. Herbarium specimens have been collected from October to April. Confusing species: This species is similar in appearance to Vittadinia cuneata but is distinguished by the presence of thick woolly hairs on the leaves which give Vittadinia gracilis a greyish appearance, whereas the short rigid hairs of Vittadinia cuneata give it a greyish-green appearance (description from Cunningham et al. 1992, Kirkpatrick et al. 1998). This species was previously known as Vittadinia triloba var. lanuginosa.

Distribution and Habitat
On the mainland this species occurs in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. In Tasmania, Vittadinia gracilis is known from dry sites on dolerite and basalt. It is predominantly found in dry sclerophyll forest around Hobart, into the Midlands and extending up into the north-east (Duncan & Johnson 1995, TPLUC 1996).
Key Sites and Populations
Key sites include Knights Point, near Bridgewater, Glen Leith near New Norfolk, Rokeby, Risdon, Penquite (Launceston), Triabunna, Lime Kilns (road to New Norfolk), Queens Domain (Hobart), Meadowbank Dam Road from Lyell Highway, Old Beach, Derwent River on south side of Clarrys Creek, Ross Cemetery, Kempton (St Marys Church of England cemetery), York Plains Road, Tea Tree, Plenty, Dysart and Hamilton.

Known Reserves
This species is not currently known from any reserve.

Ecology and Management
This species is threatened by grazing, however construction of quarries and tracks (which create bare ground) are beneficial due to a reduction in competition (TPLUC 1996).

The species appears to have become extinct in the Launceston area.

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 Vittadinia gracilis.

Further Information
**Tasmanian Distribution**
(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)

**Legend**
- Blue: Precision < 499 m
- Red: Precision > 500 m
- Green: Records Pre 1950

**1:25 000 Map Sheets**

Date last modified: 22/08/03