Hibbertia virgata

Hibbertia virgata.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: DILLENIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Hibbertia virgata,* R.Br. ex DC., *Syst. Nat*. 1: 428 (1817)

COMMON NAME: Twiggy guinea flower

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A slender, erect shrub between 20-80 cm high. The branches are thin and sometimes wiry with a covering of short curly hairs. **Leaves:** The leaves are arranged alternately on the stem. They are stiff, between 10-30 mm long and 1-2 mm wide and usually flat but channeled. The leaves are also sometimes clustered, usually with a cluster of short leaves at the base of each long one. **Flowers:** The flowers are numerous, bright yellow and between 18-25 mm in diameter. They are stalkless and borne in the leaf axils (where the stem meets the leaf) with 3-6 brownish bracts (leaf-like structures) at the base. Flowering occurs in winter to spring. **Fruit:** The fruit is a small, single seeded capsule (description from Cunningham *et al.* 1992). Most observations of this species have been made from October to December.

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. In Tasmania, *Hibbertia virgata* is found in sandy heaths and open woodlands around north-east Tasmania (Curtis & Morris 1975).

Key Sites and Populations

Important locations include Humbug Point and Waterhouse (P. Barker pers comm.). Other key sites include Georges Bay, Robigana (West Tamar), St Helens, Bridport, Hardwickes Hill, Bayley Hummock and Moulting Bay.

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Humbug Point Nature Recreation Area, Mt William National Park, Mount Direction Historic Site (Kirkpatrick *et al.* 1994) and the Waterhouse Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

Hibbertia virgata is susceptible to infection from root rot (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) and is threatened by coastal development (L. Gilfedder pers. comm).

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

Conservation Status Assessment

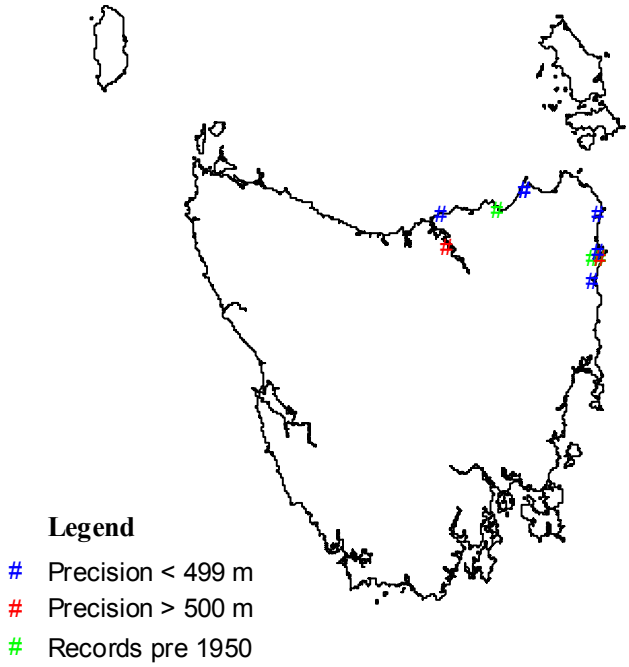
Hibbertia virgata should be reassessed for possible uplisting because of the low number of recorded locations and threats faced by the species. Taxonomic review in progress is focussing on variation between occurrences in the Georgetown and St Helens areas (A. Buchanan pers. comm. 2008).

Further Information

- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1975, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania,* Part 1, 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

Ansons Bay, Beaconsfield, Bridport, Falmouth, Low Head, St Helens, Waterhouse.

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