

Cotula vulgaris var. *australasica*



Cotula vulgaris var. *australasica*
H & A Wapstra

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Cotula vulgaris*
var. *australasica* J.H.Willis, *Vict. Nat.*
73: 201 (1957)

COMMON NAME: slender buttons

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A small, annual herb up to 20 cm tall. **Leaves:** The leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. They are narrow-linear to filiform, 1–4 cm long, to c. 1 mm wide, with leaf sheaths that are hairy at the base. **Flowers:** Yellow ‘button’ flower heads surrounded by 5–8 suborbicular bracts that are 2–5 mm long. The flower heads are solitary, between 3–5 mm across and consist of numerous, small, yellow, tubular flowers. Flowering occurs from August to November. **Fruit:** The fruit is small, flat and broadly winged, with a thin, leathery wall (description from Curtis 1963 and Jeanes 1999). **No other varieties of *Cotula vulgaris* are known in Tasmania.**

Ecology and Management

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

Conservation Status Assessment

Cotula vulgaris var. *australasica* may be more widespread than records indicate as the species is easily overlooked. A reassessment of the species’ status may be warranted following targeted surveys.



Cotula vulgaris var. *australasica* habitat:
saline herbfield in Seal Rocks State
Reserve, King Island.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student’s Flora of Tasmania, Part 2*, Government Printer, Tasmania.
- Harris, H, Buchanan, A, and Connolly, A 2001, *One Hundred Islands: The Flora of the Outer Furneaux*, Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.

- Jeanes, JA 1999, *Asteraceae*. In *Flora of Victoria, Volume 4* (Eds NG Walsh & T Entwisle), Inkata Press, Melbourne

Preceding text last modified 26/2/2008.

Following updated 21/9/2016.

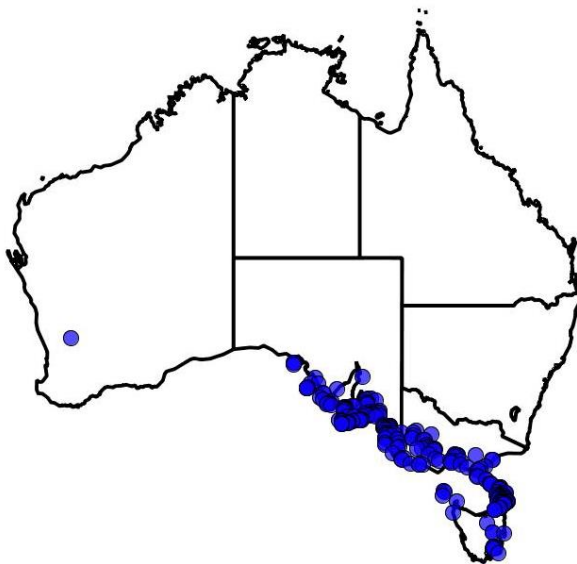
Survey Time and Habitat Guide (*black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash = poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records*)

<i>Cotula vulgaris</i> var. <i>australasica</i>	Spring				Summer				Autumn				Winter											
slender buttons	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A

- Flower stems are required to confirm the identity of this small, annual herb. Flowering occurs from August to November but the species may be identifiable for longer periods in favourable seasons or certain habitats.
- In Tasmania, habitat includes saline herbfields, rocky coastal outcrops, and wet or brackish swamps.

Distribution

(Atlas of Living Australia 21/9/2016)

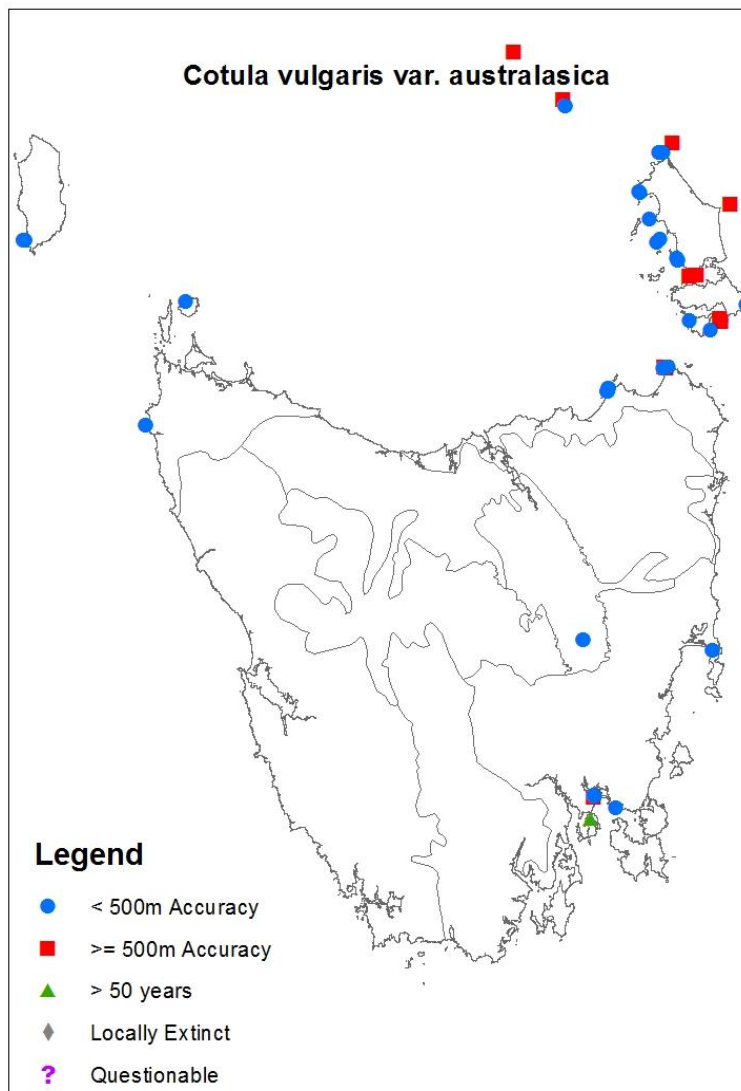


Known Reserves

Reserved in the following Conservation Areas: Forsyth Island, Gull Island, Sister Islands, Waterhouse, Wybalenna Island, Anderson Islands, Arthur-Pieman, Bun Beetons Point, Cat Island, Hogan Group, Little Chalky Island, Mile Island, and the Kent Group National Park, Strzelecki National Park, Cape Portland Private Sanctuary, Low Islets Nature Reserve, Seal Rocks State Reserve, Three Hummock Island State Reserve, and the Lungatalanana Indigenous Protected Area. It also occurs on one private property in an area covered by a conservation covenant under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

Tasmanian Distribution

(Natural Values Atlas May 2015)



Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Cotula vulgaris var. australasica (slender buttons)*. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.

View

<http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 6165 4340.

Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.