

Epilobium pallidiflorum



Epilobium pallidiflorum.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: ONAGRACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Epilobium pallidiflorum*,
A.Cunn., *Ann. Nat. Hist.* 3: 34 (1839)

COMMON NAME: showy willowherb

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*) Not
Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) rare

Description

A perennial herb between 30-120 cm high. **Stems:** The lower parts of the stem are prostrate and smooth with roots along them. The upper parts of the stem are erect with a dense covering of short hairs that are pressed close together. The stems are sometimes purplish and hard (often quite brittle). They are usually hollow or the pith has large cavities. **Leaves:** The leaves predominantly arise opposite each other, sometimes the uppermost is alternately arranged. They are usually stalkless (can have tiny stalks), long and thin with the tip tapering to a point. The base is abruptly rounded and the leaf edges are toothed or almost smooth. The leaves measure between 2-8 cm long. **Flowers:** The flowers are solitary and arise with the leaves in the upper part of the stem. They are between 2.5-3.0 cm in diameter with stalks that are approximately 8 mm long. The petals are white or rose pink and almost round but narrowed into a short claw. The flowers are between 12-15 mm long with a notch at the end, extending for almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of the length. **Fruit:** The fruit is a hairy capsule between 5-6 cm long. The seeds are egg-shaped with one face flattened.

Ecology and Management

Insects are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.). *Epilobium* species are generally short lived and produce prolific amounts of wind-dispersed seed. They are often found in riparian/wet herbfield habitats (L. Gilfedder pers. comm.). Occurrences of *Epilobium pallidiflorum* are small with a small number of plants occupying small areas. The species is at risk from land clearing, particularly for dam developments.

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>Epilobium pallidiflorum</i>	Spring				Summer				Autumn				Winter											
showy willowherb	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A

- Flowers and fruits are required to identify this perennial herb. While most observations of this species have been made during the peak flowering period from October to March (Flora of Victoria), some observations, perhaps those associated with wetter autumns, have extended through to July.
- In Tasmania, *Epilobium pallidiflorum* occurs in wet places (e.g. natural wetlands amongst forest, margins of *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest, scrubby-sedgy *E. ovata* woodland on heavy soils, etc.) mostly in the north and north-west of the State.

Reservation Status

Reserved in the Lavinia State Reserve, Mount Faulkner Conservation Area, Chasm Creek Conservation Area, Dans Hill Conservation Area, Southwest Conservation Area and Doctors Peak Regional Reserve.

Conservation Status Assessment

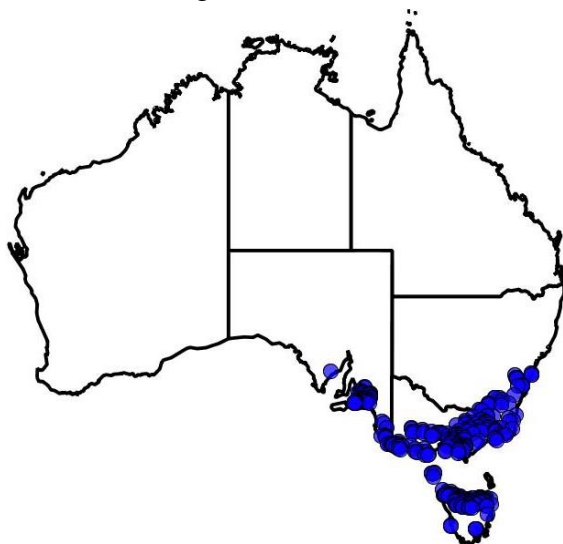
Reassessed as rare in March 2014 given the small total population size (low 1,000s occupying less than a few hectares) coupled with risk from land use changes (Criterion B1: <10,000 plants with <2,500 free from potential sudden and largely irreversible loss of plants or habitat).

Further Information

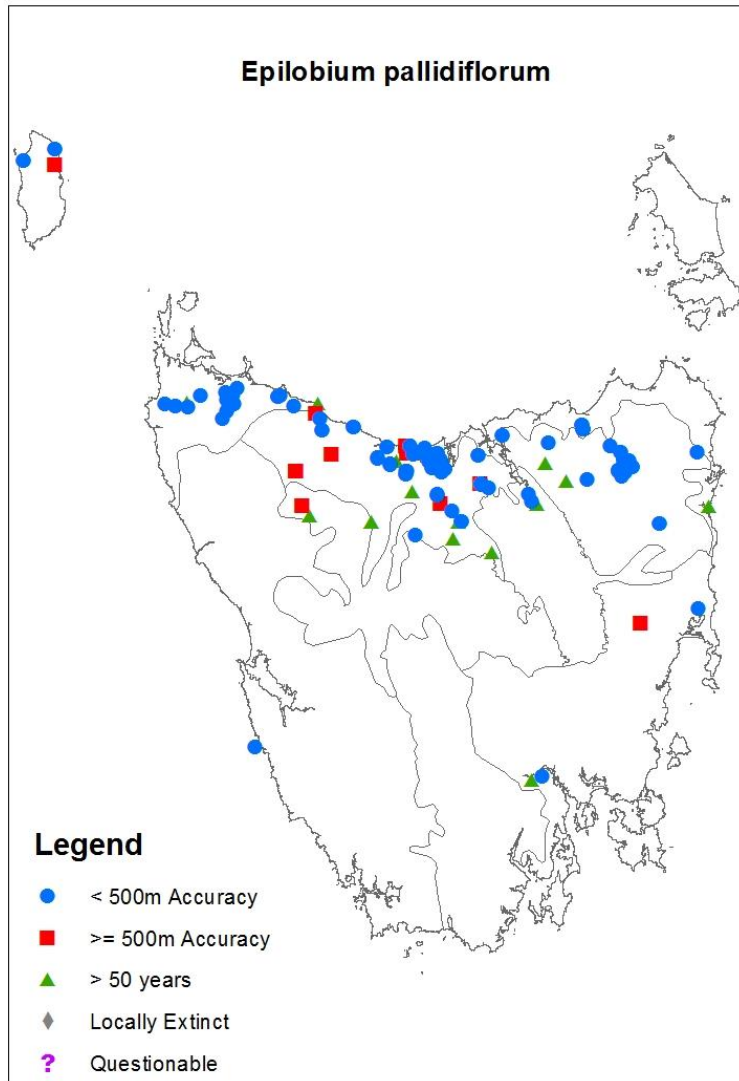
- Curtis, WM 1963, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 2, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Galbraith, J 1977, *Guide to the Wild Flowers of South East Australia*, Collins, London.

Distribution

This species occurs in Australia and New Zealand (Atlas of Living Australia 22/9/2016)



Tasmanian Distribution
(Natural Values Atlas May 2015)



Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Epilobium pallidiflorum (showy willowherb)*. 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.

Last modified 22/9/2016.