

Hypolepis muelleri



Hypolepis muelleri.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: DENNSTAEDTIACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Hypolepis muelleri*,
N.A.Wakef., *Vict. Naturalist* 60: 42 (1943)

COMMON NAME: harsh groundfern

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (EPBC Act)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (TSP Act) rare

Description

A fern with underground horizontal stems that are creeping and slender, between 2-4 mm in diameter with bronze-coloured hairs. The leaves (fronds) are erect, stiff and harsh (between 50-130 cm long). The base of the stalk is long, 2-4 mm diameter, green-brown to straw-coloured, smooth and slightly shiny. The blades are dark green, roughly triangular and both surfaces have scattered hairs. The upper part of the stalk is hairy, straw-coloured, narrowly grooved and with two prominent ridges. The clusters of spores (sori) are in two rows away from the margin and are spherical with no membranous cover. Numerous fine hairs project from the clusters. **Confusing species:** This species could be mistaken for *Pteridium esculentum* (bracken fern) as it has identical colouration and a similar harsh texture (description from Duncan & Isaac 1986, Garrett 1996).

Ecology and Management

Hypolepis muelleri often forms extensive colonies. Land clearance for agricultural activities is a threat to this species.

Conservation Status Assessment

There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Hypolepis muelleri*.

Further Information

- Duncan, BD & Isaac, G 1986, *Ferns and Allied Plants of Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
- Garrett, M 1996, *The ferns of Tasmania, Their Ecology and Distribution*, Tasmanian Forest Research Council, Hobart.

- Garrett, M 1997, *Rare or Threatened Forest Ferns, A Report to the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement*, Environment and Heritage Technical Committee, Hobart.

Preceding text last modified 3/9/2003.

Following updated 30/11/2016.

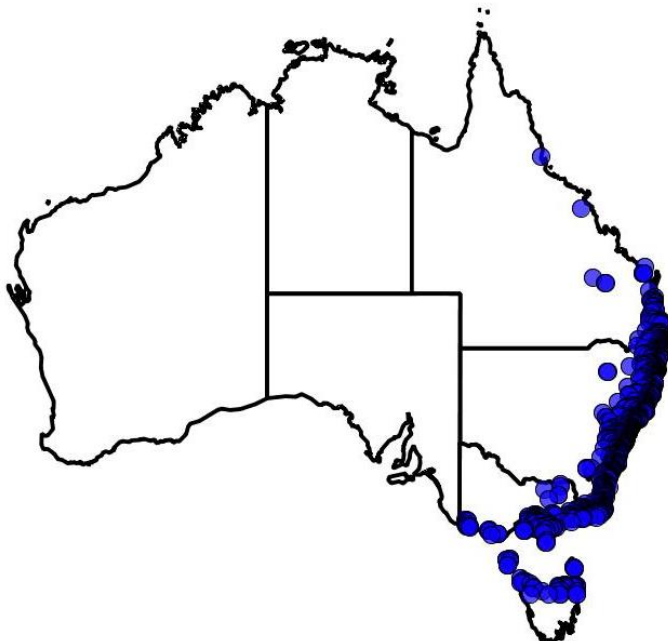
Survey Time and Habitat Guide (black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records)

<i>Hypolepis muelleri</i>	Spring						Summer						Autumn				Winter							
harsh groundfern	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A

- This terrestrial fern is best identified between December and March using fertile material on its reproductive fronds. There is usually sufficient fertile material in a patch to allow identification at any time of the year.
- In Tasmania, this species occurs along watercourses, swampy areas or deep, rich, alluvial soils below 120 m altitude in northern Tasmania including King and Flinders islands. It has also been recorded from forest dominated by *Acacia melanoxylon* (blackwood), *Melaleuca* or *Eucalyptus* species.

Distribution

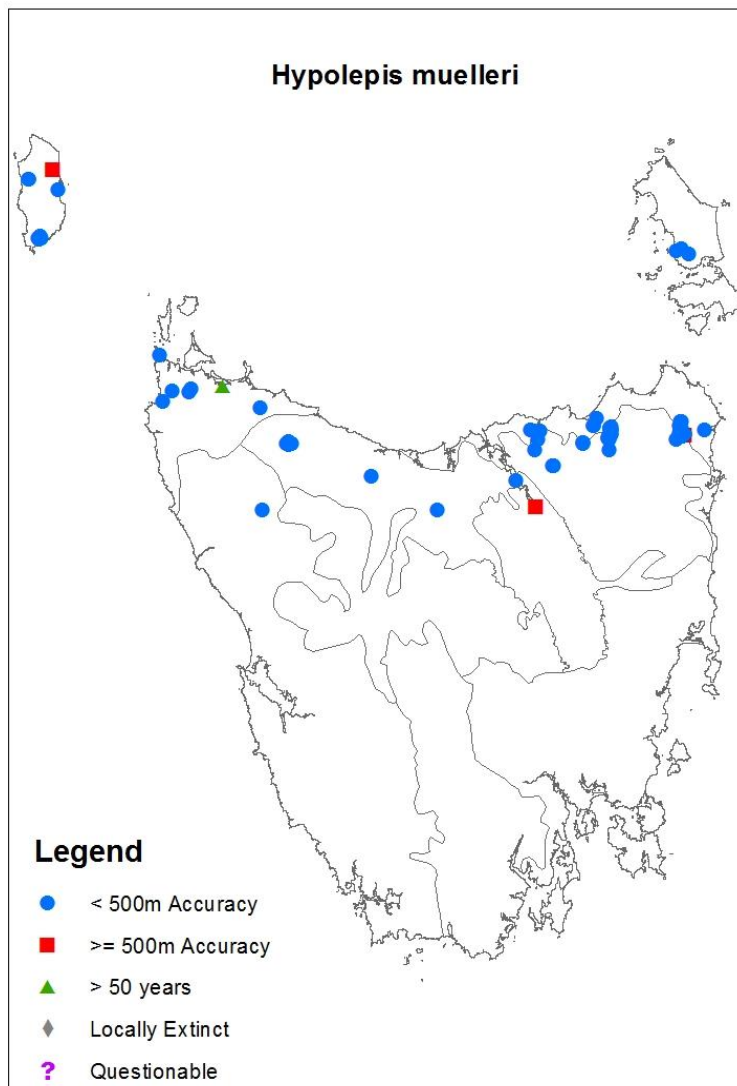
(Atlas of Living Australia 30/11/2016)



Known Reserves

Reserved in the Mount William National Park, Colliers Swamp Conservation Area, Cameron Regional Reserve and Savage River Regional Reserve. It also occurs on three private properties in areas covered by conservation covenants under the *Tasmanian Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

Tasmanian Distribution (Natural Values Atlas May 2015)



Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Hypolepis muelleri (harsh groundfern)*. 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.