

Damasonium minus



Damasonium minus.
Tasmanian Herbarium specimen.

FAMILY: ALISMATACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Damasonium minus*,
(R.Br.) Buchenau, *Abh. Naturwiss. Vereine
Bremen* 2: 20 (1869)

COMMON NAME: Star fruit

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (EPBC Act)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (TSP Act) rare

Description

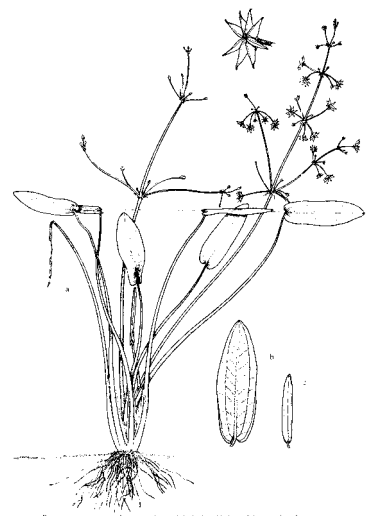
An annual herb between 15-60 cm tall. **Leaves:** The leaves are long and heart-shaped. They have long petioles (stalks that attach leaves to stem) with sheathing bases. The blades in submerged plants are erect and floating. They are up to 8 cm long with 3-5 longitudinal primary nerves and secondary nerves that are arranged like the barbs of a feather. **Flowers:** This species has a leafless floral axis that bears a stiff whorled flowering branch with parts that can be undivided or composed of several similar sections. The outer floral parts (sepals) are green with clear margins. The inner segments are pale pink or white and resemble petals (between 2-3 mm long). Flowering occurs all year but particularly from October to February (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is a dry follicle between 4-6 mm long and has 2 seeds (Curtis & Morris 1994). **This species was previously known as *Damasonium australe*.**

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species inhabits all the states except the Northern Territory. In Tasmania, *Damasonium minus* occupies swampy habitat and farm dams and prefers slow flowing or stationary water (Curtis & Morris 1994).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites for this species include the North Esk River immediately above Hobblers Railway Bridge, Bellerive swamp and Rockliffe (north-west of Swansea).



Damasonium minus.
D. Morris

Known Reserves

Damasonium minus is reserved in the Tamar Island Conservation Area.

Ecology and Management

Little is known regarding the ecology of this species, however Kirkpatrick (1991) indicates that it is not attractive to stock and is rarely grazed.

Conservation Status Assessment

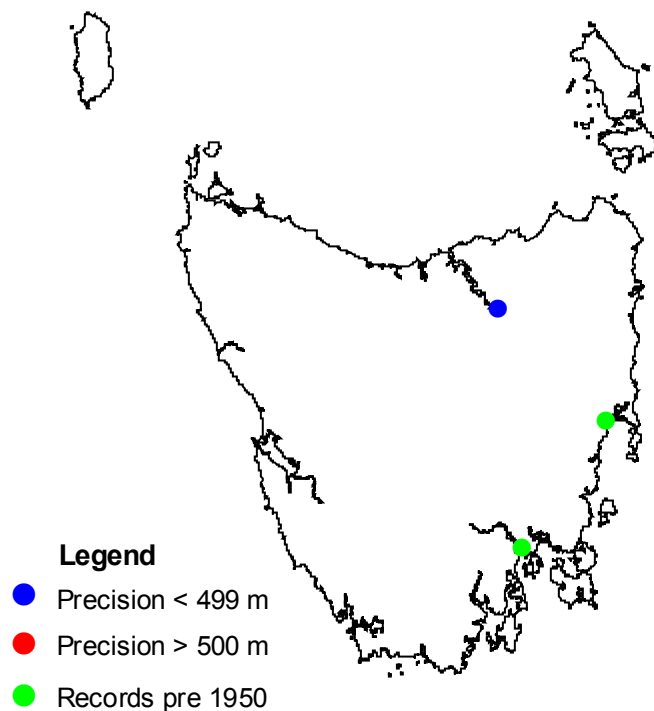
Reassessment of *Damasonium minus* is required, as there are few records of this species in Tasmania.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM & Morris, DI 1994, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 4B, Printing Authority of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Cunningham, GM, Mulham, W, Milthorpe, P & Leigh, J 1992, *Plants of Western New South Wales*, Inkata Press, Sydney.
- Kirkpatrick, JB 1991, *Tasmanian Native Bush: A Management Handbook*, Tasmanian Environment Centre, Hobart.

Tasmanian Distribution

(As per Threatened Species Unit records, June 2003)



1:25 000 Map Sheets

Hobart, Launceston, Swansea.

Date last modified: 03/09/03