

CUSHION MOORLAND

(TASVEG code - HCM)

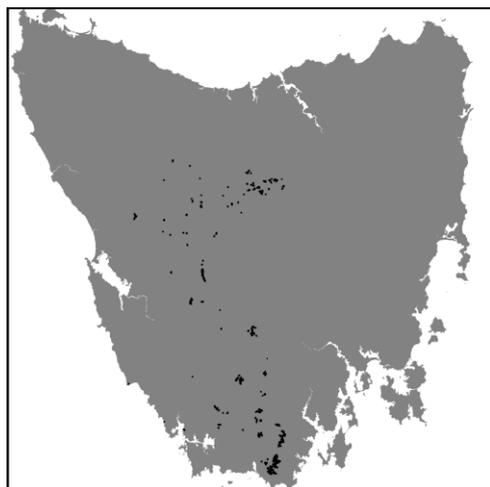
Conservation status: RARE

What is Cushion Moorland?

- *Cushion Moorland* is treeless alpine vegetation that is generally found in high-rainfall, poorly-drained areas above 1,000 m elevation. Cushion-forming species such as hairy cushion plant (*Donatia novae-zelandiae*) and heath cushion plant (*Dracophyllum minimum*) cover more than 50% of the ground, often in a mosaic with other cushion-forming species. Lilies, daisies, grasses, herbs, sedges and very small woody shrubs may occur in open areas between the cushions.
- In some cases, the cushion-forming species form a series of 'steps' along natural watercourses that serve to dam water flow, thereby promoting further development of cushion-forming plants.



Photo: Louise Gilfedder



Where can I see examples of Cushion Moorland?

- Cushion Moorland can be found at Sarah Jane Plateau near Mt Anne in the south-west, Mount Field West Plateau (e.g. near Newdegate Pass), Walls of Jerusalem National Park and on the summit of Precipitous Bluff in the State's south.



Photo: Louise Gilfedder

Why is Cushion Moorland important and what are its management issues?

- *Cushion Moorland* is rare, covering only about 3,100 hectares.
- All of the known examples are in reserves, such as the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park, Wild Rivers National Park and the South-West National Park.
- The main management issue associated with the community is exclusion of fire. Most species within this alpine moorland are killed by fire and may not regenerate for some decades afterwards, if at all.



Need help or more information on threatened native vegetation communities?

Forest Practices Authority: 30 Patrick St, Hobart 7000; phone – 6233 7966; Online - www.fpa.tas.gov.au

DPIPWE: 134 Macquarie St, Hobart 7000; phone – 6233 8538; Online – www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Information and assistance for landholders is also available from the Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association: cnr Cimitiere and Charles St, Launceston 7250; phone – 6332 1800