CONTRIBUTIONS TO A CATALOGUE OF ALIEN PLANTS IN TASMANIA III

by Matthew L. Baker

(with four text-figures and three plates)


The status of six alien plant taxa recorded in Tasmania is discussed. *Cordyline australis* (G.Forst.) Endl., *Lupinus × regalis* Bergmans, *Pittosporum crassifolium* Banks & Sol. ex A.Cunn., *Pittosporum engelii* A.Cunn., *Pittosporum tenax* Gaertn. and *Pittosporum undulatum* Vent. are ornamental taxa that are now recognised as naturalised in Tasmania. A description for each taxon is provided and distribution and habitat details are discussed. Keys to the Tasmanian species of *Lupinus* L. and *Pittosporum* Banks ex Gaertn. are included.

Key Words: naturalised, exotic, weeds, introduced, flora, *Pittosporum*, *Cordyline*, *Lupinus*.

INTRODUCTION

Management of Tasmania's alien flora requires an accurate and up-to-date account of taxa present. This paper is the third of a series (Baker 2005, 2007) which aims to ensure that taxa that become naturalised in Tasmania are formally recorded; that taxa that are present in Tasmania, but have not become fully naturalised ["sparingly naturalized" in the sense of Buchanan (2005) and Baker (2005)] are likewise recorded; that new incursions of alien taxa are recorded; and to maintain up-to-date names for taxa that have been affected by nomenclatural change. In this paper, six taxa are treated, giving diagnostic descriptions and notes on their distribution. It is hoped that this information will increase general knowledge of distribution of naturalised alien taxa in Tasmania and raise community awareness of plants that have the potential to become naturalised.

Reports of new incursions, naturalised and sparingly naturalised species are welcomed by the author. Specimens and relevant collection information can be forwarded to the Tasmanian Herbarium.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Primary sources used for this study are specimens held in the Tasmanian Herbarium (HO). Herbarium abbreviations follow Holmgren et al. (1990). Identifications by the author and others were checked against literature and, where available, reliably identified voucher specimens.

Voucher specimens for all species treated have been lodged in the Tasmanian Herbarium. The naturalised status of treated species is based upon field observations made by the author and others and, when available, from notes accompanying specimens.

The placement of genera in families follows the *Flora of Tasmania Online* (Duretto 2009).

Citations of synonyms are limited to names used in Tasmanian literature. Tasmanian distributions follow floristic regions proposed by Orchard (1988). Geographical origins of plants treated have been determined from various published sources. Definitions of "alien" and "naturalised" and "sparingly naturalised" have been discussed by Baker (2005).

INTRODUCTION

Management of Tasmania's alien flora requires an accurate and up-to-date account of taxa present. This paper is the third of a series (Baker 2005, 2007) which aims to ensure that taxa that become naturalised in Tasmania are formally recorded; that taxa that are present in Tasmania, but have not become fully naturalised ["sparingly naturalized" in the sense of Buchanan (2005) and Baker (2005)] are likewise recorded; that new incursions of alien taxa are recorded; and to maintain up-to-date names for taxa that have been affected by nomenclatural change. In this paper, six taxa are treated, giving diagnostic descriptions and notes on their distribution. It is hoped that this information will increase general knowledge of distribution of naturalised alien taxa in Tasmania and raise community awareness of plants that have the potential to become naturalised.

Reports of new incursions, naturalised and sparingly naturalised species are welcomed by the author. Specimens and relevant collection information can be forwarded to the Tasmanian Herbarium.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Primary sources used for this study are specimens held in the Tasmanian Herbarium (HO). Herbarium abbreviations follow Holmgren et al. (1990). Identifications by the author and others were checked against literature and, where available, reliably identified voucher specimens.

Voucher specimens for all species treated have been lodged in the Tasmanian Herbarium. The naturalised status of treated species is based upon field observations made by the author and others and, when available, from notes accompanying specimens.

The placement of genera in families follows the *Flora of Tasmania Online* (Duretto 2009).

Citations of synonyms are limited to names used in Tasmanian literature. Tasmanian distributions follow floristic regions proposed by Orchard (1988). Geographical origins of plants treated have been determined from various published sources. Definitions of "alien" and "naturalised" and "sparingly naturalised" have been discussed by Baker (2005).
FIG. 1 — Geographical distribution of Cordyline australis as known from herbarium specimens.
as garden ornamentals, green manure crops and as broad acre crops. *Lupinus albus* L. (Albus Lupins, Broad Leaf Lupin, Lupini Beans) and *L. angustifolius* (Narrow Leaf Lupin) are grown in Tasmania as grain legumes for both animal feed and for human consumption (Knox et al. 2006).

*Lupinus X regalis* can be readily distinguished from other Tasmanian lupins by the large showy inflorescences that exhibit a range of corolla colours within a single population. This is in contrast to yellow in *L. arboreus* and blue in *L. angustifolius*. Plants growing at Storys Creek have flowers that are mainly whitish in colour but plants with pink and purple flowers are also present. Blue and white flowered forms are most commonly encountered in naturalised plants in New Zealand (Webb 1988).

**Key to the species of Lupinus in Tasmania**

1. Annual herb; corolla blue .......... *L. angustifolius*
2. Woody shrub, usually growing in sandy coastal sites; corolla yellow.......................... *L. arboreus*
2. Perennial herb, usually growing in cool highland areas; corolla of various colours, usually pink, blue or white .................................................. *L. x regalis*

**Distribution and habitat:** *Lupinus X regalis* is a garden hybrid (or hybrid complex) with the parents being *L. polyphyllus* and *L. arboreus* (both native to North America), and possibly involving some annual species (Huxley 1999, Spencer 2002). In New Zealand, it grows in riverbeds and waste places, established locally in lowland areas, but is widespread in streams and riverbeds in montane to subalpine areas (Webb 1988). It is particularly invasive and troublesome in the braided riverbeds in the Canterbury region (Anon. 2007). In Australia, one of the parents, *L. polyphyllus*, is naturalised in New South Wales (Gardner & Murray 2002) and Victoria (Walsh & Stajic 2007) and “questionably established” in South Australia (Barker et al. 2005). Images for the *Lupinus polyphyllus* entry in PlantNET (The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust 2011) and the common name used in Gardner & Murray (2002) suggest that naturalisations under *L. polyphyllus* in New South Wales are referable to *L. x regalis*. Examination of material held in mainland herbaria would be needed to determine the identity of all specimens currently being called *L. polyphyllus*. The same may be true in Australia, as it is in the British Isles and New Zealand that *L. polyphyllus* is rarely encountered and most records under that name are in fact *L. x regalis* (Webb 1988, Stace 2010). In Tasmania, *L. x regalis* has been recorded from a small number of locations where it has most likely persisted and spread from abandoned gardens (fig. 2).

**First record:** 1999, A.M. Buchanan.


(*Pittosporaceae*)

**Description:** Trees or shrubs. Leaves simple, alternate, entire, petiolate, exstipulate. Inflorescence terminal or axillary; flowers solitary or in many flowered cymes; sepals 5; petals 5; stamens 5; pistil 1, ovary superior, carpels 2–5. Fruit a loculicidal capsule; seeds few to many, immersed in viscous fluid.

For a comprehensive description of *Pittosporum* in Australia see Cayzer et al. 2000.

**Discussion:** *Pittosporum* is a genus of about 100–200 species (Cayzer et al. 2000, Mabberley 2008) native to Australia, New Zealand, Malasia, the Pacific Islands, eastern Asia north to Japan, India, Sri Lanka and westwards to Africa. In Australia, 20 species are native and a further five species and one hybrid (*P. bicolor* Hook. × *P. undulatum*) are naturalised. Several New Zealand species are grown in gardens in Australia (e.g., *P. tenuifolium* and *P. eugenioides*), and it is such species that are the source of naturalised taxa, especially as their seeds are consumed and spread by birds. Observations have been made of Blackbirds (*Turdus merula* L. 1758) consuming seeds of *P. undulatum* (Cooper 1959).

In Tasmania, one species is native (*P. bicolor*) and four species (*P. crassifolium*, *P. eugenioides*, *P. tenuifolium* and *P. undulatum*) and one hybrid (*P. bicolor* × *P. undulatum*) are naturalised. A key to all Tasmanian taxa and treatments of the four naturalised species is given below.

**Key to the species of *Pittosporum* in Tasmania**

1. Leaves without a prominent yellow midrib; fruit more than 6.5 mm long ........................................ 2
   1a. Leaves with prominent yellow midrib; fruit less than 6.5 mm long ........................................ 3a. *P. eugenioides*
   1b. Fruit opening by three valves; petals maroon ........ 3
   1c. Fruit opening by two valves; petals yellow with maroon markings or cream ........................................ 4
   1d. Leaves 6–13.5 cm long, 1.8–5 cm wide; leaf margins usually undulate; abaxial surface of leaf glabrous or nearly so ........................................ 5
   1e. Leaves 1–7 cm long, 0.3–1.5 cm wide; leaf margins not undulate; abaxial surface of leaf densely hairy ...... ........................................ 2. *P. bicolor*
   1f. Leaf margins not undulate or slightly undulate; inflorescence with c. 6 flowers; petals creamy-yellow, flushed maroon (especially in bud); fruit dark yellowish-green when mature .............. *P. bicolor* × *P. undulatum*
   1g. Leaf margins undulate; inflorescence with up to 35 flowers; petals cream; fruit bright orange when mature ........................................ 3d. *P. undulatum*


**Common names:** Lemonwood, Tarata (Maori).

**Illustration:** Spencer (2002: 18); Salmon (1992: 132–133, fig. 1–10); pl. 3A.

**Description:** Trees to 5 m tall (to 12 m in New Zealand). Stems glabrous. Leaves alternate, petiole up to 20 mm long; lamina elliptic, 55–130 mm long, 22–45 mm wide, sub-coriaceous; adaxial surface glabrous, glossy; abaxial surface glabrous, paler than adaxial surface; margin not revolute, irregularly undulate (sometimes only slightly); apex acute to minutely apiculate; base cuneate. Flowers in many-flowered, terminal, compound umbels; sepals 1.5–2 mm long, glabrous apart from a few hairs on the margin, erect; petals up to 7 mm long, spreading, cream; ovary pubescent. Fruit a 2-valved capsule, up to 6.5 mm long, becoming glabrous or nearly so, black at maturity. Seeds c. 2.3 mm diam., deep burgundy, c. 5 per fruit, enclosed in a papery endocarp.

**Discussion:** *Pittosporum eugenioides* may be confused with the more commonly cultivated and naturalised *P. undulatum*, from which it differs by having a much greater number of flowers per inflorescence and much smaller fruits that are green at first and later mature to black (compared to orange in *P. undulatum*). The leaves of *P. eugenioides* have a prominent yellow midrib and when crushed have a strong lemon smell (Salmon 1992). Forms with variegated leaves are grown in gardens in Tasmania.

**Distribution and habitat:** *Pittosporum eugenioides* is native to New Zealand where it is widespread in forest clearings, forest margins and along stream banks from sea level to 600 m (Salmon 1992). In Australia, it is naturalised in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. In New South Wales, it is naturalised in the Upper Blue Mountains area in the Central Tablelands region where it is associated with disturbed dry sclerophyll forest (Hosking et al. 2007). In Tasmania, it has naturalised along forest margins, roadsides and the banks of watercourses in the East Coast and North-West regions (fig. 3).
PLATE 3
Branches of (A) Pittosporum eugenioides, (B) P. tenuifolium, (C) P. crassifolium and (D) P. undulatum (all bearing mature fruit).
West region:

A population of numerous plants ranging in size from 1 to 4 m tall was recently recorded growing in a forest at a few coastal sites around King Island where it is commonly found on sandy soils in remnant bushland surrounding the township of Currie. A small population of four plants has been recorded growing beside the sporting oval at Alonnah, South East Road, King Island, 1 Dec. 1984, A. M. Buchanan. Pittosporum tenuifolium is native to the Kermadec Islands and the North Island of New Zealand and is common in coastal to lower montane forest from sea level to 920 m (Allan 1961, Salmon 1992). In Australia, it is naturalised in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania and doubtfully naturalised in South Australia. In New South Wales, a small population has been recorded growing on the disturbed margin of subtidal woodland at Leura in the Central Tablelands region (Hosking et al. 2007). In Tasmania, it has been recorded throughout the state, mostly in shaded, moist habitats including the banks of watercourses and in wet Eucalyptus forest (fig. 3). A population of numerous plants ranging in size from 1 to 4 m tall was recently recorded growing in a forest at Lunawanna, Bruny Island.

First record: May 1984, A.M. Buchanan.


Common name: Black Matipo, Kohuhu (Maori).

Illustrations: Richardson et al. (2006: 336); Phillips & Rix (2002: 214–5); Spencer (2002: 19); Salmon (1992: 146–147, figs 1–10); pl. 3B.

Description: Shrubs or trees to 6 m tall (to 8 m in New Zealand). Stems sparsely pubescent when young, becoming glabrous with age. Leaves alternate; petiole 7–12 mm long; lamina elliptic to obovate, 23–55 mm long, 10–25 mm wide, thinly coriaceous, with both surfaces at first sparsely pubescent, then becoming glabrous; abaxial surface paler than adaxial surface; margin not or only slightly revolute, variously undulate; apex acute to minutely apiculate, sometimes obliquely twisted; base cuneate. Flowers usually solitary in leaf axils (also in few-flowered cymes in New Zealand); sepals c. 3 mm long, hairy when young, erect; petals up to 10 mm long, recurved in the apical quarter, deep maroon; ovary pubescent. Fruit a 3-valved capsule, 8–10 mm long, dark brown to black at maturity. Seeds c. 3 mm diam., dark reddish brown to almost black, up to 6 per fruit (up to 16 in New Zealand material).

Discussion: Pittosporum tenuifolium can be readily identified by having solitary flowers and relatively small leaves (up to 55 mm long) that are borne on dark brown to black stems. Various forms are grown that differ in leaf colour and variegation; Spencer (2002) lists 29 cultivars. Naturalised plants in Tasmania mostly exhibit pale green leaves without variegation.

Distribution and habitat: Pittosporum tenuifolium is native to New Zealand where it grows on both the North and South Islands and is common in coastal to lower montane forest from sea level to 920 m (Allan 1961, Salmon 1992). In Australia, it is naturalised in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania and doubtfully naturalised in South Australia. In New South Wales, a small population has been recorded growing on the disturbed margin of subtidal woodland at Leura in the Central Tablelands region (Hosking et al. 2007). In Tasmania, it has been recorded throughout the state, mostly in shaded, moist habitats including the banks of watercourses and in wet Eucalyptus forest (fig. 3). A population of numerous plants ranging in size from 1 to 4 m tall was recently recorded growing in a forest at Lunawanna, Bruny Island.

First record: Jan. 1996, P.A. Collier


Common name: Karo (Maori)

Illustrations: Walsh & Albrecht (1996: 536, fig. 110c); Spencer (2002: 18); Salmon (1992: 144–145, figs 1–9); pl. 3C.

Description: Shrubs or trees to 5 m tall (to 9 m in New Zealand). Stems grey tomentose when young, becoming glabrous with age. Leaves alternate; petiole 5–15 mm long; lamina spathulate to narrow-obovate, 30–85 mm long, 12–37 mm wide, coriaceous, adaxial surface pubescent, soon becoming glabrous; abaxial surface persistently grey tomentose; margin revolute, not undulate; apex sub-acute to rounded; base cuneate to attenuate. Inflorescence a terminal umbel with up to 5 flowers (up to 10 in New Zealand); sepals 3–6 mm long, pilose on abaxial surface, spreading to deflexed; petals up to 14 mm long, recurved in the apical third, deep maroon; ovary pubescent. Fruit a (2 or) 3-valved capsule, 15–25 mm long, tomentose, pale grey-green. Seeds c. 4 mm diam., black, numerous.

Discussion: Pittosporum crassifolium can be readily identified by its large, leathery leaves that have a persistent and dense covering of grey-coloured hairs on the abaxial surface. The fruits are the largest of all the taxa in Tasmania, being large globose capsules that open by three valves, and are initially covered with an indumentum of grey hairs that gives them a pale grey-green colour. A similar species, P. ralphii, also a New Zealand endemic, is naturalised in wet sclerophyll forest at Katoomba in the Central Tablelands region of New South Wales (Hosking et al. 2007). P. ralphii has leaves that are abruptly narrowed to the petiole and with flat to slightly downturned margins, and fruits that are c. 15 mm long. In contrast, P. crassifolium has attenuate leaf bases, revolute leaf margins and fruits up to 20 mm long (Allan 1961, Spencer 2002).

Distribution and habitat: Pittosporum crassifolium is native to the Kermadec Islands and the North Island of New Zealand, where it commonly occurs at forest margins and along the banks of watercourses (Allan 1961). It was introduced to Australia as a garden plant. It is regarded as doubtfully naturalised in South Australia and naturalised in New South Wales, Victoria, Norfolk Island and Tasmania. In New South Wales, it is naturalised on the Malabar Headland, Central Coast region (Conn 2011), whereas in Victoria, it has naturalised at a few coastal sites around Port Phillip Bay (Walsh & Albrecht 1996). In Tasmania, it is naturalised on King Island where it is commonly found on sandy soils in remnant bushland surrounding the township of Currie. A small population of four plants has been recorded growing at Binalong Bay on the state’s East Coast (fig. 4).

3d. Pittosporum undulatum Vent., Descr. Pl. Nouv. 8:76, t.76 (1802) (Pittosporaceae)

Common Name: Sweet Pittosporum.

Illustrations: Richardson et al. (2006: 336); Walsh & Albrecht (1996: 536, fig. 110g); Spencer (2002: 22); pl. 3D.

Description: Trees to 13 m tall. Stems glabrous. Leaves alternate, gathered in a whorl-like arrangement at the ends of stems; petiole up to 30 mm long; lamina elliptic to ovate, 60–135 mm long, 18–50 mm wide, sub-coriaceous, both surfaces glabrous, abaxial surface paler than adaxial surface; margin not to very slightly revolute, slightly to strongly undulate; apex acute, occasionally obliquely twisted; base attenuate. Flowers in a terminal umbel-like cyme with up to 35 flowers per cluster; sepals up to 10 mm long, sparsely hairy, erect; petals up to 16 mm long, recurved in the apical quarter, cream; ovary pubescent. Fruit a 2-valved capsule, up to 14 mm long, pubescent and green at first, becoming orange, and almost glabrous. Seeds 3–4 mm diam., orange to burgundy, numerous.

Discussion: Pittosporum undulatum can be readily identified by its fruits that ripen to a bright orange colour. A variegated cultivar ("Variegatum") is commonly cultivated. For notes on differentiating P. undulatum from the similar looking species, P. eugenioides, see under that species.

Hybrids between P. undulatum and P. bicolor have been recorded throughout the state and are not uncommon. Such plants were not known to be hybrids when they were first described as P. undulatum subsp. emmettii W.M. Curtis (Morris & Curtis 1974). This hybrid also occurs in Victoria and New South Wales (Walsh & Albrecht 1996).

The hybrid has the following characters that differ from the parents: young leaves with scattered hairs on both surfaces; margin flat to slightly undulate. Flowers in terminal clusters of c. 6. Petals with scattered hairs on both surfaces; sepals up to 10 mm long; ovary pubescent. Flowers in clusters of up to 35 flowers per duster; sepals up to 16 mm long; petals recurved in the apical quarter, cream; ovary pubescent. Fruit a 2-valved capsule, up to 14 mm long, pubescent and green at first, becoming orange, and almost glabrous. Seeds 3–4 mm diam., orange to burgundy, numerous.

Distribution and habitat: Pittosporum undulatum is native to Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. It has been widely planted as a garden ornamental and has subsequently spread from plantings and is naturalised in Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

In New South Wales and Victoria, P. undulatum is native in rainforest and sclerophyll forests and woodland from coastal areas to the highlands (Walsh & Albrecht 1996, Makinson 2002). Naturalised populations grow in wet forest and coastal scrub of southern Victoria and in forests in the Sydney region. In Tasmania, P. undulatum is the most common naturalised species of Pittosporum. It is a common environmental weed species that grows in a range of habitats but most commonly in coastal heath and dry forest bordering residential areas where it is also a common garden plant (fig. 4). It has also escaped from cultivation on Norfolk Island, Lord Howe Island (Green 1994), southern Africa, Mexico, the Caribbean, Azores, Hawaii (Weber 2003) and New Zealand (Heenan et al. 2002).

First record: Feb. 1974, E.B. Clayton. An undated, but most certainly earlier, specimen collected by L. Rodway exists and, given its cited location (Botanical Gardens, Hobart), it is likely that it was taken from a cultivated specimen. Records held at the Tasmanian Herbarium indicate that L. Rodway collected in Tasmania from the mid-1870s to late 1930s.

Selected specimens examined: TASMANIA: East Coast region: Bicheno, Lookout Reserve, 12 Feb. 1984, A. Muscal 6224 (HO, MEL); Tiparah Beach, 30 m S of mouth of Constable Gully Creek, 4 May 1984, D. Ziegeler s.n. (HO).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Stirling, W side of Goulds Road, c. 0.22 miles [0.4 km] from its junction with Pomona Road, 20 Mar. 1957, Booth 54 (HO, NSW).


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Gintaras Kantvilas for his significant support in the development of this manuscript. Thanks also to Miguel de Salas for his assistance in the preparation of the plates. Lyn Cave and Dalia Howe are to be thanked for their assistance in the production of the distribution maps and John Hosking and John Conran for their useful comments in their capacity as reviewers.