

Gippsland Vegetation Types: Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's)

EVC description derived from Davies et.al (2001) Ecological Vegetation Class Mapping at 1:25 000 in Gippsland.

EVC 192 Montane Rocky Shrubland

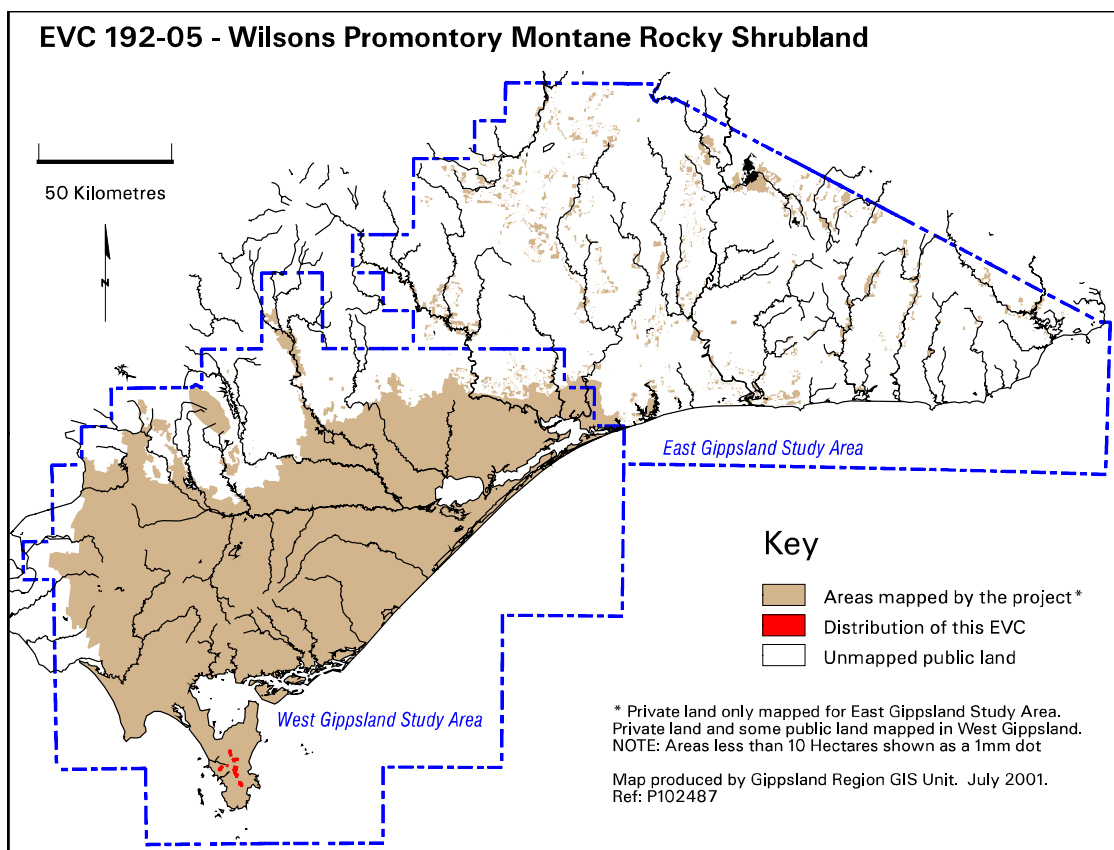
Occurs on the windswept rocky crests and upper slopes of mountain peaks at Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Floristic Community 192-05 *Wilsons Promontory Montane Rocky Shrubland*



Wilsons Promontory Montane Rocky Shrubland on Mt Latrobe. Photo: John Davies 1998

Elevation (metres above sea level)	600-700
Average rainfall p.a. (mm)	>1000
Topography	Windswept rocky summits and associated slopes of high peaks
Geology	Devonian granite
Soils	Undescribed but probably stony clay loam/loam
Related/adjacent EVCs/FCs	<i>Granitic</i> Wet Rocky Outcrop Scrub on shallower soils, Wet Forest on the deeper soils downslope and Cool Temperate Rainforest on the most protected slopes
Present land use	Nature conservation, recreation
Present distribution	Restricted to high peaks of Wilsons Promontory National Park
Examples of sites/quadrats/lists	Mt La Trobe (F48751, F48755, F48756)
Total Area(ha)/ Number of polygons	115/23



Vegetation: structure/floristics:

Wilsons Promontory Montane Rocky Shrubland includes a range of structural forms from rocky shrubland through scrub to low forest. Two forms of *Wilsons Promontory* Montane Rocky Shrubland were recorded. The first is wind-pruned rocky shrubland less than 1m in height that occupies the treeless rocky crests. It is dominated by Common Heath *Epacris impressa*, Bush Broom-heath *Monotoca elliptica*, Lemon Bottlebrush *Callistemon pallidus*, Long Clubmoss *Huperzia varia*, and Dusty Daisy-bush *Olearia phlogopappa* var. *phlogopappa*. It also includes Reed Bent-grass *Deyeuxia quadriseta* growing on rocks, as well as Hard Water-fern *Blechnum watsii*, Red-fruit Saw-sedge *Gahnia sieberiana*, Pretty Grass-flag *Libertia pulchella*, Tasman Flax-lily *Dianella tasmanica*, Mother Shield-fern *Polystichum proliferum* and even low shrubs of Myrtle Beech *Nothofagus cunninghamii*. This floristic community is unusual in that it contains Common Heath *Epacris impressa* associated with Myrtle Beech *Nothofagus cunninghamii*. Areas of poor drainage include the moss *Sphagnum cristatum* and expanses of Brickmakers' Saw-sedge *Gahnia grandis*. These areas were probably once Cool Temperate Rainforest before the last major wildfire in 1951 and may revert to this provided they remain free of fire.

The second form consists of the hybrid Otway Messmate *Eucalyptus obliqua/regnans* to a height of about 25m emergent over an understorey of Tree Broom-heath *Monotoca elliptica*, Starry Daisy-bush *Olearia stellulata*, occasional Myrtle Beech *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, Common Heath *Epacris impressa* and Lemon Bottlebrush *Callistemon pallidus*. A dense ground cover of Hard Water-fern *Blechnum watsii* and Tasman Flax-lily *Dianella tasmanica* is typically present.

Comments:

The rocky crests are presently treeless although historical records suggest that this is a result of a major wildfire in 1951. Old stumps perched on large boulders suggest that a tall forest would have been present before the big fire and that a large volume of soil loss has occurred.

Wilsons Promontory Montane Rocky Shrubland shows strong floristic affinities with Tasmania.

Two incidental plant records entered on the Flora Information System are worthy of brief comment because of their biogeographical significance. These are Baw Baw Berry *Wittsteinia vacciniacea* (I06503) and Mountain Clubmoss *Lycopodium fastigiatum* (I06520) which were both collected from the top of Mt Latrobe and lodged

with the National Herbarium of Victoria. Both records represent new Victorian southern limits of range with the former being a national southern limit of range.

Gippsland species list including species frequency and fidelity.

Fidelity: Rating of faithfulness of a species to an EVC or Floristic Community. Highest fidelity rating indicated by an “F” ie species only recorded in respective group.

% Frequency: Percentage occurrence of a species/taxa in an EVC or Floristic Community – **NB. Species highlighted in red are the most frequent and important.**

* = weed ie: non native

EVC 192-05: *WILSONS PROMONTORY MONTANE ROCKY SHRUBLAND*

Species	% Frequency	Fidelity
Blechnum fluviatile	16.67	F
Lycopodium fastigiatum	16.67	F
Sphagnum cristatum	16.67	F
Libertia pulchella	66.67	411.10
Eucalyptus obliqua/regnans	33.33	205.05
Huperzia varia	50.00	154.08
Deyeuxia monticola var. monticola	16.67	102.69
Olearia stellulata	83.33	85.55
Nothofagus cunninghamii	100.00	77.01
Tasmannia lanceolata	100.00	77.01
Callistemon pallidus	83.33	73.33
Gahnia grandis	66.67	68.43
Juncus pauciflorus	16.67	51.34
Dianella tasmanica	83.33	32.08
Uncinia tenella	83.33	28.52
Olearia phlogopappa	16.67	25.67
Sticherus tener	16.67	25.67
Hymenophyllum australe	50.00	25.67
Thelymitra spp.	16.67	20.54
Atherosperma moschatum	33.33	20.53
Monotoca elliptica s.l.	100.00	18.67
Banksia saxicola	16.67	17.12
Blechnum wattsii	100.00	17.11
Asplenium bulbiferum ssp. gracillimum	33.33	17.11
Drymophila cyanocarpa	16.67	14.67
Dicksonia antarctica	83.33	13.16
Grammitis billardierei	50.00	10.62
Polystichum proliferum	50.00	9.06
Lepidosperma elatius	50.00	8.56
Microsorium pustulatum	50.00	8.32
Coprosma quadrifida	66.67	6.32
Fieldia australis	16.67	4.46
Deyeuxia quadriseta	16.67	3.95
Pittosporum bicolor	16.67	3.67
Pimelea humilis	16.67	3.54
Epacris impressa	83.33	3.47
Cyathea australis	16.67	2.93
Viola hederacea s.l.	33.33	1.97
Pteridium esculentum	16.67	0.86
Leptospermum continentale	16.67	0.43