Inventory and Monitoring of the Vascular Plants of Tasmanian Saltmarsh Wetlands

Vishnu Prahalad, Violet Harrison-Day, Adelina Latinovic, Jamie Kirkpatrick Geography and Spatial Sciences, University of Tasmania, Hobart 7001. vishnu.prahalad@utas.edu.au

Summary

Tasmanian coastal saltmarsh wetlands are found in sheltered low-energy environments associated with large estuaries, creek mouths, lagoons and embayments. They are mapped as two major plant communities: Succulent Saline Herbland (TASVEG Code: ASS) and Saline Sedgeland/Rushland (TASVEG Code: ARS). In Aug 2013, coastal saltmarsh was the second vegetation community in the State to be listed as a 'threatened ecological community' (category: vulnerable) under the Australian Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). Given this status, it is important to monitor saltmarsh extent and condition. Since plants play the central role in structuring the saltmarsh ecosystem, they require monitoring as a priority. In the present paper we provide the justifications for, and details of, the species and attributes we use in Statewide monitoring of saltmarsh plants. We also outline monitoring methods and a citizen science approach. A Tasmanian

Saltmarsh Wetland Plants Checklist, Saltmarsh App and a User Guide to Entering Plant Data into the Saltmarsh App have been designed to assist in this endeavour.

Plants of saltmarsh wetlands

Saltmarsh wetlands occur in both coastal and inland areas of Tasmania. Coastal saltmarshes are characterised by their tidal connectivity to the sea. The connectivity can be regular (with the daily semidiurnal tidal flows) or intermittent (with episodal spring tides and storm surges), and can also include groundwater connectivity. Coastal saltmarshes occur extensively along sheltered, low energy, shallow intertidal environments in large estuaries, creek mouths, lagoons and embayments, particularly in the south-east, east, north and north-west parts of the State, as well as Flinders Island (see Figure 1). Saltmarsh flora is also common on the outer islands of the Furneaux Group and has been mapped at a detailed level by Harris et al. (2001). Inland saltmarshes lack any tidal connectivity but have high evaporation rates resulting in salinity levels suitable for saltmarsh plants. They occur both on the coastal zone (e.g. Sellars Lagoon, Flinders Island) and in the dry Tasmanian Midlands region (e.g. Township Lagoon, Tunbridge). Inland saltmarshes are therefore functionally different due to lack of tidal exchange and yet floristically similar to their coastal counterparts. The EPBC Act listing only applies to the tidally connected coastal saltmarshes (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2013).

Tasmanian saltmarshes, both coastal and inland, are mapped by their plant communities as outlined by the Tasmanian Vegetation Monitoring and Mapping Program (TVMMP), to be part of the Digital Vegetation Map of Tasmania (TASVEG, digital map available through www.thelist.tas.gov.au). The two major TASVEG saltmarsh plant communities are (after Kitchener and Harris 2013: Saltmarsh and wetland section):

Succulent Saline Herbland (ASS)

Vegetation dominated by herbaceous species growing on the margins of highly saline, protected, flat estuarine shorelines inundated with sea water during high tides, dominated by halophytic plants, predominantly Sarcocornia quinqueflora and/or Sclerostegia arbuscula [now Tecticornia arbuscula].

Saline Sedgeland/Rushland (ARS)

Vegetation dominated by sedges, rushes and occasionally tussock grasses growing in highly saline environments, often inundated by tidal water, dominated by halophytic plants commonly *Gahnia*

filum and Juncus kraussii.

These two TASVEG community types simplify the 15 structural/dominance communities of Kirkpatrick and Glasby (1981). One of these 15 community types is *Spartina anglica* grassland, made up of the exotic and highly invasive *S. anglica* (rice grass), and is mapped separately by TASVEG as *Spartina* marshland (FSM).

Tasmanian saltmarshes are characterised by vascular plants which have developed a range of physiological adaptations to waterlogging, salinity and exposure to sun, waves and wind (Adam 1990; Kirkpatrick and Glasby 1981; Kirkpatrick and Harris 1999). These plants include obligate species that are largely confined to Tasmanian saltmarshes and facultative species that are less confined. The Vegetation Benchmarks defined by TVMMP include a list of 'dominant species' and 'other typical species' for both ASS and ARS communities (Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment 2016). These species lists are not fully inclusive or reflective of the dominant life forms found across Tasmanian saltmarshes. There is a need for a more systematic and complete process of developing an updated list of vascular plants of Tasmanian saltmarshes.

Saltmarshes in Tasmania have been under a range of local anthropogenic threats (Prahalad 2014b) as well as being subject to impacts from climate change and relative sea level rise (Prahalad *et al.* 2012, Prahalad *et al.* 2015a). A study of land clearing in north-west Tasmania found that 16% of saltmarsh extent has

been lost since the 1950s, while 65% of the remaining marshes have been subject to impacts, such as draining and grazing (Prahalad 2014b). Another study in south-east Tasmania examining decadal scale vegetation change in saltmarshes reported over 40% change in community composition largely due to climate change and relative sea level rise (Prahalad et al. 2012). A national response to these impacts has been the inclusion of Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh as a 'threatened ecological community' (category: vulnerable) under the EPBC Act. The conservation advice associated with the listing identifies a need to monitor changes in species composition and distribution (Threatened **Species** Scientific Committee 2013).

Plants play the central role in structuring the saltmarsh ecosystem and the vegetation structure and composition strongly reflect environmental variation (Adam 1990). Plants are therefore well regarded as excellent indicators for saltmarsh management and are widely used in monitoring programmes (e.g. Neckles et al. 2002, Konisky et al. 2006). There are a few existing programmes in Tasmania that provide baseline data that can be used to monitor changes in saltmarsh vegetation. However, these programmes are not directed at saltmarshes in particular and have been used sporadically in the past with variable data accuracy and coverage (e.g. Figure 1). Efforts at improving data collection can be enhanced through collaboration between scientists, managers interested members of the public, facilitated through dedicated 'citizen science' tools and initiatives (Cohn 2008, Prahalad *et al.* 2015b).

The present paper aims to address the following questions:

- (1) What is a saltmarsh plant, or, what plants are likely to occur in Tasmanian saltmarshes (i.e. a saltmarsh plants list/inventory)?
- (2) What is the relative likelihood of finding a plant species in Tasmanian saltmarshes, or, what plants are more or less important for a monitoring programme (i.e. a monitoring shortlist)?
- (3) What information can be recorded while documenting plants of Tasmanian saltmarshes (i.e. monitoring attributes)?

In answering these questions, we provide the justifications for, and details of, the species and attributes we use in State-wide monitoring of saltmarsh plants. A selected list of these species and attributes are used in the *Tasmanian Saltmarsh Wetland Plants Checklist* and *Saltmarsh App* as part of a citizen science project focussed on saltmarsh monitoring (NRM North 2017, NRM South 2016).

Methods

Generating a list of vascular plants

The first step towards developing a Tasmanian saltmarsh wetland plants inventory involved examining five sources (plant records, lists) to produce an updated and thorough list of relevant vascular plants (Appendix 1). Kirkpatrick

and Glasby (1981) documented the distribution of saltmarsh and saltmarsh plant species in Tasmania, including Flinders Island. Bridgewater et al. (1981) provided an identification guide for The Saltmarsh Plants of Southern Australia. Saintilan (2009a) provided species lists for all States in Australia as part of the book, Australian Saltmarsh Ecology 2009b). The TASVEG (Saintilan Version 1.0 Benchmark for Vegetation Condition Assessment (Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment 2016) includes a plant list derived from expert inputs (Karyl Michaels pers. comm. 2015). The online resource Key to Tasmanian Vascular Plants (Jordan et al. 2011) lists plants according to their families and genera rather than their habitat associations, i.e. saltmarsh in the present case. However, species habitats are noted for several of the plants. These sources were used to develop an initial list of Tasmanian saltmarsh plants.

The list thus produced was further curated by the authors with inputs from Greg Jordan (pers. comm. 2014) and Richard Schahinger (pers. comm. 2014), to produce the final list presented in Appendix 2. Photographic records from various field visits by the senior author (VP) were also reviewed in this process. Where there were isolated incidences of species (< 3 occurrences), they were omitted from the list.

Habitat occupancy coding

The plants listed were assigned a habitat occupancy code to rank the relative likelihood of finding a plant species in Tasmanian saltmarshes. The codes

were based on a rating scheme adapted from the U.S. National Wetland Plant List (Table 1, based on Lichvar et al. 2012, Reed 1988). The modified rating scheme uses five classes based on the probability of occurrence in Tasmanian saltmarsh wetlands. We applied this scheme to the list of Tasmanian saltmarsh plants using expert knowledge based on extensive field observations, written and photographic records (VP, drawing from Prahalad 2009, Mount et al. 2010, Prahalad and Mount 2011, Prahalad 2012, Prahalad and Pearson 2013, Prahalad 2014c; JK, drawing from Kirkpatrick and Glasby 1981, Kirkpatrick and Harwood 1983). Expert knowledge was used here in lieu of the distribution data available from Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas (NVA) and intersecting it with saltmarsh mapping on ArcGIS platform (as shown in Figure 1). The spatial distribution data were found to be unreliable for this task, with several records occurring over water bodies and vegetation community types known to be unsuitable habitat. Another limitation with using the NVA records here was the lack of data coverage for many parts of the State (Figure 1).

Selecting attributes for monitoring

Current field identification and recording of plant species occurrence is facilitated through three main interfaces: Atlas of Living Australia (ALA, www. ala.org.au), Natural Values Atlas (NVA, www.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au) and Vegetation Condition Assessment (VCA, Michaels 2006). Data entry for ALA and NVA are done online, while

Table 1. The modified rating scheme used here in relation to the parent scheme used by the U.S. National Wetland Plant List based on Lichvar et al. (2012) and Reed (1988). * The code also includes a suffix letter to identify the provenance of the species: .n for natives; .e for endemics; and .i for introduced species

Rating	Code	Description	Modified rating	Code*
Obligate Wetland	OBL	Occur almost always (estimated probability > 99%) under natural conditions in saltmarsh wetlands	Obligate Saltmarsh	Obl.
Facultative Wetland	FACW	Usually occur in saltmarsh wetlands (estimated probability 67%-99%), but occasionally found in other habitats	Common in Saltmarsh	Com.
Facultative	FAC	Equally likely to occur in saltmarsh wetlands and other habitats (estimated probability 34%-66%)	Occasional in Saltmarsh	Occ.
Facultative Upland	FACU	Only occasionally found in saltmarsh wetlands (estimated probability 1%-33%), usually occur in other habitats	Uncommon in Saltmarsh	Unc.
Upland	UPL	Occur almost always (estimated probability > 99%) under natural conditions in other upland habitats	Upland to Saltmarsh	Ter.

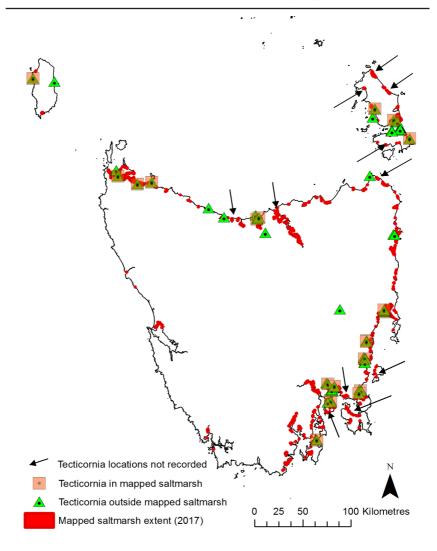


Figure 1. *Tecticornia arbuscula* distribution records obtained from the Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas (NVA) showing either, the inaccuracy of some of the data points (e.g. the one in central eastern Tasmania, over 50 kms away from the nearest coastline), and the lack of coverage for areas pointed to with arrows (e.g. east coast of Flinders Island).

VCA is completed in paper form and then used to create a VCA Report. ALA is a national database supported by the Australian Government, while NVA and VCA are specific to Tasmania. The attributes collected for each of these three monitoring systems are listed in Table 2. From these attributes, a list of default, essential and optional attributes have been identified for monitoring of the plants of Tasmanian saltmarsh wetlands. The essential attributes are designed specifically to allow for the survey to develop a saltmarsh site specific plant species list that can be compared to lists from other saltmarshes around the State.

Results and Discussion

List of vascular plants

The list consists of 132 species (not counting subspecies in some cases) from 34 families (presented in Appendix 2). Of the 132 species, 76 (58%) are dicots and 56 (42%) monocots. The saltmarsh dicots are made up of 26 families compared to 8 families of saltmarsh monocots. The largest family of dicots is the Chenopodiaceae with 15 species, including the dominant and widespread Sarcocornia spp. and Tecticornia arbuscula. The largest monocot family is the Poaceae with 25 species. There are 14 species (11%) that are listed as rare under the Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (accessed 2014). Of these, 10 species were dicots and 4 monocots. Only two taxa were endemic to Tasmania, namely Limonium australe var. baudinii and Puccinellia barcusiana. The list also includes 32 introduced

(non-native) species (24%), of which 19 are dicots and 13 monocots.

Habitat occupancy coding

There were 21 obligate species (16%) and 18 common species (14%), with the majority of the rest being either occasional (23%) or uncommon (45%) in saltmarsh (Figure 2). Two species were assigned to the terrestrial class and are almost always found upland to saltmarsh.

The obligate species (Code: Obl.) include taxa that are invariably restricted to saltmarshes, such as Wilsonia spp. and Limonium australe, and taxa that also occur rarely in the coastal spray zone, such as Sarcocornia spp., Suaeda australis, Selliera radicans, Lawrencia spicata (e.g. Plate 1), Juncus kraussii and Puccinellia stricta. Common species (Code: Com.) include Disphyma crassifolium and Austrostipa stipoides, for example, found frequently in the coastal spray zone. The rare Frankenia pauciflora is identified as common due its occurrence on two saltmarsh islands in north-west Tasmania (Threatened Species Unit n.d.). The species is otherwise more common on the coastal spray zone (Harris et al. 2001). Mimulus repens, Leptinella longipes, Lilaeopsis polyantha, Isolepis cernua, Triglochin striata and Apodasmia brownii are examples of taxa common to saltmarsh but also occur frequently in coastal heaths, dunes or other wetland environments.

The occasional species (Code: Occ.) include *Tetragonia implexicoma*, *Rhagodia candolleana*, *Ficinia nodosa* and *Poa poiformis*, which are frequent in saltmarshes but are highly facultative and occur commonly

Table 2. Attributes collected as part of Atlas of Living Australia, Natural Values Atlas and Vegetation Condition Assessment protocols for recording of plant species occurrence.

Atlas of Living Australia	Natural Values Atlas	Vegetation Condition Assessment	Monitoring of the Plants of Tasmanian Saltmarsh Wetlands
Default attributes	(no need to record	d them as part of	the survey)
Project Name/ Code	Project Name/ Code	-	Default: 'Saltmarsh Monitoring'
Basis of Record	Observation Type	-	Default: 'Field based observation'
Essential attribute	es (need to be reco	rded to complete	the survey)
Recorded By	Observer Names	Assessor	Name of the observer(s)
-	-	TASVEG Code	Either ARS or ASS (based on % abundance data for key species)
Scientific Name	Species Name	Species Name	Record scientific name (essential)
Common Name	-	Common Name	Record common name (if known)
Accuracy Rating	Data Accuracy	-	Indicate observation as 'doubtful' if unsure of species identification
Date	Observation Date	Date	Date and time of day of the survey/observation
Locality	Location Description	Location	Location details of the site (including any landmarks)
-	-	Site Name	Name of the site
Eastings and Northings	Eastings and Northings	Eastings and Northings	Eastings and Northings of the survey location

Table 2 continued

Atlas of Living Australia	Natural Values Atlas	Vegetation Condition Assessment	Monitoring of the Plants of Tasmanian Saltmarsh Wetlands
Optional attributes (can be recorded, t	hough not essentia	l to complete the survey)
Error Margin (metres) in E, N	Position Accuracy	-	Could be noted in additional comments section
Individual Count	Individuals Count	-	Count of individual plants (only for listed species or important weeds)
-	Coverage Area	-	Coverage area in m ² (only for listed species or important weeds)
-	Reproduction Status	-	Flowering status (if known)
Associated Media	-	-	Mention in additional comments section if photos were taken
-	Land Use	Current Land Use	Could be noted in additional comments section*
Additional Notes/ Comments	Observation Notes	Comments	Could be noted in additional comments section

^{*}A separate survey process and checklist is available for recording human impacts on saltmarshes. In the present case of vegetation monitoring, a section has been included for recording weed species that need priority management.

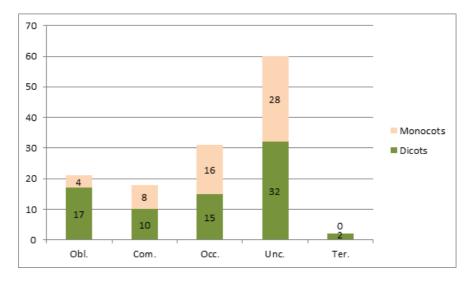


Figure 2. Distribution of the 132 plant species across the five classes (see Table 1 for class descriptions). Dicots and monocots were relatively equally represented for uncommon, occasional and common species. Monocots were poorly represented in obligate species.

in other coastal environments. *Melaleuca* ericifolia and *Phragmites australis* are also classed here as occasional species as they regularly occur in the ecotonal boundary between saltmarsh and nearby freshwater wetlands dominated by either of the these two species.

Uncommon species (Code: Unc.) made up the largest proportion (45%) of the five classes. Prominent examples are Senecio pinnatifolius, Melaleuca gibbosa, Epilobium billardiereanum, Rumex brownii, Eleocharis acuta, Juncus pallidus, Leptocarpus tenax and Typha spp. Uncommon species also notably include 18 of the 32 introduced taxa (56%), such as Carpobrotus edulis, Euphorbia paralias, Hordeum marinum and Thinopyrum junceiforme. Photographic material collected during various field visits showed isolated

incidences of some native dicots such as Acaena novae-zelandiae, Plantago spp., Sebaea ovata, Senecio spp. and Urtica incisa. Similarly, introduced dicots such Centaurium erythraea, Lotus corniculatus and Trifolium spp. were also present in the photographic records. Several uncommon monocot species are also likely to have been overlooked largely due to the difficulty in identification.

Only two terrestrial species (Code: Ter.) have been included in this list, namely Allocasuarina verticillata and Myoporum insulare. These species almost always occur in other nearby upland habitats and on rare occasions, are either on the upland margins of saltmarsh as part of successional change or on small mounds in the marsh. There are also a number of predominantly terrestrial

weeds that do sometimes occur within saltmarsh, such as, Chrysanthemoides monilifera, Cortaderia spp., Erica lusitanica, Lycium ferocissimum, Pinus radiata, Rosa rubiginosa, Rubus fruticosus and Ulex europaeus (VP pers. obs.). These species are omitted from the list, but included in an optional section of the saltmarsh plants monitoring survey for priority weed management.

Monitoring attributes

The attributes selected for monitoring include both essential and optional details (see Table 2). The essential attributes include the location of the saltmarsh (site name, landmarks etc.), Eastings and Northings of the survey location, name of the recorder(s) and/or group involved (e.g. Conservation

Volunteers Australia), date and time of day of field observations, scientific and common name of the plants recorded and the accuracy of plant species identification (i.e. a confirmed record or doubtful?). For plants that are listed as 'rare' under State legislation, further (optional) details can be noted, including: number of plants/individuals and/or area occupied (in m²). Additional (optional) notes, including flowering status, can be entered for all records, as necessary. Apart from generating species lists, the survey can also include data on species composition by recording % abundance of the structurally dominant plant species and use these data to assign a vegetation community type (either ARS or ASS) to the survey area. The key marker species for ARS community type



Plate 1. Lawrencia spicata seen well established (>1.5 m high) on a coastal spray zone microhabitat in the north-east corner of Flinders Island (north of Holloway Point).

include Juncus kraussii, Gahnia filum and Austrostipa stipoides. The marker species for the ASS community type include Sarcocornia spp. and Tecticornia arbuscula. Either ARS or ASS community type is assigned to a saltmarsh area based on the vegetation type that occupies greater than 50% of the area.

Another optional attribute included in the survey relates to invasive species of plants. A separate optional section is allocated to record the presence and % abundance of Spartina anglica, considered to be the most deleterious weed in the context of Tasmanian saltmarshes (Mount et al. 2010). Other prominent weed species can also be recorded (species listed in previous section) and would help direct management. For example, the local community group Wildcare Deslacs has identified Erica lusitanica as their high priority weed for managing the natural values of the Pipe Clay Lagoon saltmarshes, in south-east Tasmania (Prahalad 2016).

Future work and plants monitoring

The list of vascular plants of Tasmanian saltmarsh wetlands presented in Appendix 2 and their preliminary expertevidence based ranking are a starting point for refinement with the collection of further data of plant distribution in the State. Existing databases such as NVA and ALA have served a limited purpose in systematically collecting plant distribution data specific to saltmarshes. The scheme proposed here for the State-wide monitoring

of saltmarsh plants aims to fill in an important gap in enriching data via site-specific species lists and extending the spatial coverage across Tasmania. The monitoring process aims to involve a broader cross-section of the community, such as Field Naturalists club members, Threatened Plants Tasmania members and volunteers, University of Tasmania staff and students, and other trained volunteers, through citizen science (Cohn 2008), to provide increased capacity for field data collection for improved management outcomes.

Generic site-specific species lists can be used as an important starting point for monitoring the plants of particular saltmarsh sites by recording the plant species present. This could be done through a dedicated survey conducted in specific saltmarsh sites during the flowering season (for easy species level identification), or be linked with citizen science activities such as the BioBlitzes (e.g. Extinction Matters Bioblitz 2016). Species data collected will help improve our understanding of the State-wide distribution of saltmarsh plants, their ecology and biogeography (relating distribution data to local and regional environmental factors), and management needs (Saintilan 2009c). When these data are collected over decadal scales, it can also indicate any species-range shifts that occur as a consequence of climate change. Collected data could also be curated and transferred into ALA and NVA portals, allowing for multiple uses for the same data.

Data collection could follow one of three following methods (cf. Prahalad et

al. 2015b). A Tasmanian Saltmarsh Wetland Plants Checklist, Saltmarsh App and a User Guide to Entering Plant Data into the Saltmarsh App have been designed to assist in data collection and are available through NRM North (2017), NRM South (2016) and the authors. The data collected through the Saltmarsh App can be visualised, analysed and downloaded as a datasheet through QGIS (http:// www.qgis.org), a desktop geographic information system. Access is currently open to the senior author (VP) and is also the point of contact for any data requests from contributors, managers and researchers. It is envisaged that the data collected will be periodically curated and published in publically available reports and articles (e.g. Tamar Saltmarsh Monitoring Program 2016-18: Dykman and Prahalad 2018).

Area search

For saltmarsh sites under 2 ha, the entire site can be surveyed. Use the Checklist (and/or the App) to record observations of all vascular plant species present at the site. These data can be used as a measure of species richness for each saltmarsh site that is comparable across sites and also provides a basis for saltmarsh rehabilitation (Konisky et al. 2006, Saintilan 2009c). A TASVEG community type (either ASS or ARS) can then be assigned based on the % abundance of the key marker species (as noted in previous section).

For larger saltmarshes and those with low accessibility (e.g. with deep creeks and muddy sections), a 2 ha area can be selected for the survey (e.g. a rectangle of 100 x 200 m or a circle of 80 m

radius). For large marshes (of > 5 ha), multiple 2 ha areas can be surveyed, allowing for a separation between two survey locations by a minimum of 300 m. Selection of total number and distribution of the 2 ha survey locations can done such that they are proportional to the extent of the marsh area (e.g. two 2 ha locations for sites between 5-10 ha) and the diversity in the vegetation types (e.g. a 2 ha survey location each in of the two TASVEG community types, if both are present in the site). The basis of recommending 2 ha survey areas is to link plant species richness/ abundance data with bird species richness/ abundance and behaviour data collected at the same location following the preferred '2-ha Search' method used by BirdLife Australia (BirdLife Australia n.d., Prahalad et al. 2015b).

Fixed-route monitoring

The fixed-route monitoring method is suitable for larger marshes where transect(s) in the form of fixed-route(s) marked by pickets/stakes or other landmarks (such as formed walking tracks, boardwalks) can be established (e.g. Plate 2). All plants encountered along the fixed-route are to be recorded. Any prominent weed species listed in the Checklist can also be noted. A TASVEG community type may or may not be assigned depending on the size of the marsh and the difficulty in determining % abundance scores for the key marker species.

The fixed-route survey could also be linked to a 1 x 1 m quadrat survey undertaken at regular 20-30 m intervals. In addition to presence/absence data, a



Plate 2. Henderson Lagoon saltmarsh (near Scamander on the east coast of Tasmania) has a clearly marked walking track with boardwalks suitable for recording all plant species encountered along the fixed-route.

quadrat survey can provide data on the percentage cover of each species (as a measure of relative abundance: Morgan and Short 2002), and indications of health using vegetation saltmarsh height and presence of any bare areas as proxies (Prahalad 2012). The quadrat survey can also be coupled with photopoint monitoring (Michel et al. 2010), by taking photographs of the quadrats and developing a temporal photo series for each quadrat/saltmarsh. A quadrat survey coupled with photo-point monitoring provides high resolution baseline data on saltmarsh plants and can be used especially to accompany saltmarsh restoration activities (Neckles et al. 2002). Although the transect-based quadrat survey is a commonly used survey method in saltmarsh vegetation monitoring, the method is labour, expertise and material intensive and may not be the preferred option for citizen science projects.

Incidental search

An incidental search method is suitable for one-off sightings of plants that do not follow one of the two methods discussed above. This method may be particularly suitable for rare species and other species of concern, whose distribution and abundance data (number of individual plants and/or area covered in m²) is essential for species conservation and recovery efforts (e.g. Konisky *et al.* 2006).

Conclusion

Tasmanian saltmarsh wetlands are under increasing threat from both direct human impacts and global change factors. This threat is coupled with a decreasing capacity of managers to collect baseline data and monitor for changes. In the present paper we identify monitoring methods and a citizen science approach that could help mitigate these threats and lack of capacity by involving a broader cross-section of the community to develop a State-wide database to help inform saltmarsh conservation and rehabilitation. We also envisage that the engagement of these stakeholders/ participants in monitoring will confer the benefits of science communication and place attachment usually attributed to such citizen science projects. An enhanced interest in and knowledge of saltmarsh plants and their habitat can therefore potentially help advance science and support nature conservation.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Greg Jordan and Richard Schahinger for providing comments that helped in developing this paper. Thanks also to the two reviewers Mick Brown and Stephen Harris. The research was supported by funding assistance from Natural Resource Management North and Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship. Natural Resource Management South helped fund the development of the *Saltmarsh App* by Esk Mapping & GIS.

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Appendix 1. Collation of existing lists of the vascular plants of Tasmanian saltmarsh wetlands

Kirkpatrick and Glasby 1981	Bridgewater, Rosser and de Corona 1981	Saintilan 2009a	TASVEG Version 1.0 by DPIPWE 2016	Dicot Key by Jordan et al. 2011
Dicots				
Aizoaceae				
Carpobrotus edulis	-	-	-	-
Carpobrotus rossii	Carpobrotus rossii	Carpobrotus rossii	Carpobrotus rossii	-
Disphyma blackii	Disphyma clavellatum	Disphyma crassifolium	Disphyma crassifolium	Disphyma crassifolium
Tetragonia implexicoma	-	-	-	-
Amaranthaceae				
Hemichroa pentandra	Hemichroa pentandra	Hemichroa pentandra	Hemichroa pentandra	Hemichroa pentandra
Apiaceae				
-	-	-	-	Apium annuum
Apium prostratum	Apium prostratum	Apium prostratum	Apium prostratum	-
-	-	-	Centella cordifolia	-
Eryngium vesiculosum	-	-	-	Eryngium vesiculosum
-	Hydrocotyle capillaris	-	-	-
Lilaeopsis brownii	-	Lilaeopsis brownii	-	Lilaeopsis polyantha
Asteraceae				
Angianthus preissianus (syn. A. eriocephalus)	Angianthus preissianus	Angianthus preissianus	-	Angianthus preissianus
Brachycome graminea	-	-	-	Brachyscome graminea
Centipeda minima	-	-	-	-
Cotula coronopifolia	Cotula coronopifolia	Cotula coronopifolia	-	Cotula coronopifolia

				Gnaphalium
-	-	-	-	indutum
Cotula longipes	-	-	-	-
Cotula reptans		Cotula reptans	-	-
-	-	Cotula spicatum	-	-
-	Senecio lautus	Senecio lautus	-	-
-	-	Aster australasica	-	-
-	-	Aster subulatus	-	-
Gnaphalium candidissimum	-	-	-	_
Campanulaceae				
				Lobelia
Lobelia alata	-	Lobelia alata	-	anceps
				Lobelia
Pratia platycałyx	-	-	-	irrigua
Caryophyllaceae				
				Spergularia
Spergularia media	Spergularia media	Spergularia media	-	tasmanica
Chenopodiaceae				
				Atriplex
-	-	-	-	australasica
Atuit los e sissesses a	Atuit la saissana	Atuit las sissans a	Atriplex cinerea	Atriplex cinerea
Atriplex cinerea	Atriplex cinerea	Atriplex cinerea	Airipiex cinerea	
Atriplex paludosa	Atriplex paludosa	Atriplex padulosa		Atriplex paludosa
2 Impios painciosa	2 In prox puntosa	2 Impost <u>pacter</u> osu		Atriplex
Atriplex hastata	Atriplex hastata	_	_	prostrata
1	1	Atriplex		1
-	_	semibaccata	_	-
Chenopodium		Schribactura		
Cnenopoaium		30moutuu		
glaucum ssp.		Chenopodium		Chenopodium
	-		-	Chenopodium glaucum
glaucum ssp.	- Maireana	Chenopodium	-	1 -
glaucum ssp.	- Maireana oppositifolia	Chenopodium	-	glaucum
glaucum ssp. ambiguum	oppositifolia	Chenopodium glaucum	- Rhagodia	glaucum - Rhagodia
glaucum ssp.	oppositifolia Rhagodia baccata	Chenopodium	- Rhagodia candolleana	glaucum
glaucum ssp. ambiguum	oppositifolia	Chenopodium glaucum - Rhagodia baccata	candolleana -	glaucum - Rhagodia candolleana -
glaucum ssp. ambiguum	oppositifolia Rhagodia baccata	Chenopodium glaucum		glaucum - Rhagodia

Salicornia quinqueflora	Salicornia quinqueflora	Sarcocornia quinqueflora	Sarcocornia quinqueflora	Sarcocornia quinqueflora
quinquejiora	quinquejiora	quinquejwra	quinquejiora	Suaeda
Suaeda australis	Suaeda australis	Suaeda australis	Suaeda australis	australis
-	-	-	-	-
Arthrocnemum	Arthrocnemum	Tecticornia	Sclerostegia	Tecticornia
arbuscula	arbuscul <u>um</u>	arbuscula	arbuscula	arbuscula
	Arthrocnemum			
-	bidens	-	-	-
	Arthrocnemum	Tecticornia		
-	halocnemoides	halocnemoides	-	-
Convolvulaceae			_	
		Wilsonia	Wilsonia	Wilsonia
Wilsonia backhousei	Wilsonia backhousei	backhousei	backhousei	backhousei
Wilsonia humilis	Wilsonia humilis	Wilsonia humilis	Wilsonia humilis	Wilsonia humilis
Wilsonia		Wilsonia	Wilsonia	Wilsonia
rotundifolia	Wilsonia rotundifolia	rotundifolia	rotundifolia	rotundifolia
Cuscutaceae				
				Cuscuta
Cuscuta tasmanica	-	-	-	tasmanica
Fabaceae				
-	-	Lotus australis	-	-
Frankeniaceae				
		Frankenia		Frankenia
-	Frankenia pauciflora	pauciflora	-	pauciflora
Gentianaceae				
	Centaurium			
-	pulchellum	-	-	-
-	Centaurium spicatum	-	-	-
				Sebaea
Sebaea albidiflora	Sebaea albidiflora	-	-	albidiflora
Goodeniaceae				
				Selliera
Selliera radicans	Selliera radicans	Selliera radicans	Selliera radicans	radicans
Malvaceae				
				Lawrencia
Lawrencia spicata	Lawrencia spicata	Lawrencia spicata	-	spicata

				Lawrencia
-	-	-	-	squamata
Myoporaceae				
-	-	Myoporum insulare	-	-
Plantaginaceae				
Plantago coronopus	Plantago coronopus	Plantago coronopus	-	-
Plumbaginaceae				
			Limonium	Limonium
Limonium australe	Limonium australe	Limonium australe	australe	australe
-	-	-	-	Limonium baudinii
Polygonacea				
Rumex brownii	-	-	-	-
Portulacaceae				
-	-	Portulaca oleracea	-	-
Primulaceae				
-	Samolus junceus	-	-	-
				Samolus
Samolus repens	Samolus repens	Samolus repens	Samolus repens	repens
Rubiaceae				
Nertera depressa	-	-	-	-
Scrophulariaceae				
Mimulus repens	-	Mimulus repens	Mimulus repens	Mimulus repens
Monocots				
Centrolepidaceae				
		Centrolepis		
-	Centrolepis polygyna	polygyna	Centrolepis spp.	-
Cyperaceae	1			
-	-	Baumea acuta	-	-
-	-	-	Baumea arthrophylla	-
Baumea juncea	Baumea juncea	Baumea juncea	Baumea juncea	-
-	Scirpus maritimus	-	-	
-	-	-	Carex appressa	-
Eleocharis acuta	-	-	-	-
Scirpus nodosus	Scirpus nodosus	Isolepis nodosa (syn. S. nodosus)	Isolepis nodosa	-

-	Scirpus marginatus	-	-	
Gahnia filum	Gahnia filum	Gahnia filum	Gahnia filum	-
Gahnia trifida	-	-	Gahnia trifida	-
Scirpus cernuus	-	Isolepis cernua	Isolepis cernua	-
Scirpus inundatus	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	Isolepis platycarpa	-
Scirpus pungens	-	-	-	-
Schoenus nitens	Schoenus nitens	Schoenus nitens	Schoenus nitens	-
Juncaceae				
-	-	Juncus bufonius	-	-
Juncus kraussii	Juncus kraussii	Juncus kraussii	Juncus kraussii	-
Juncus pallidus	-	-	-	-
Juncus planifolius	-	-	-	-
Juncus revolutus	Juncus revolutus	-	-	-
Juncaginaceae				
Triglochin minutissima	-	Triglochin minutissima	-	Triglochin minutissima
-	Triglochin mucronata	-	-	Triglochin mucronata
Triglochin centrocarpa	Triglochin centrocarpa	-	-	-
Triglochin striata	-	Triglochin striata	Triglochin striat <u>um</u>	-
Poaceae				
Agrostis stolonifera	-	-	-	-
Stipa stipoides	Stipa stipoides	Austrostipa stipoides	Austrostipa stipoides	-
-	-	Cynodon dactylon	-	-
-	-	-	-	Deschampsia cespitosa
Distichlis distichophylla	Distichlis distichophylla	Distichlis distichophylla	Distichlis distichophylla	-
Festuca arundinacea	-	-	-	-
-	Monerma cylindrica	Hainardia cylindric <u>al</u>	-	-
-	Hordeum geniculatum	-	-	-
Agrostis aemula	-	-	-	-

		Lachnagrostis		
Agrostis billardieri	Agrostis billardieri	billardieri	-	-
Agrostis avenacea	-	-	-	-
Parapholis incurva	Parapholis incurva		-	Parapholis spp.
-	-	Phragmites australis	Phragmites australis	-
Poa annua	-	-	-	-
Poa labillardieri	-	-	-	-
Poa poiformis	-	-	Poa poiformis	-
Polypogon monspeliensis	Polypogon monspeliensis	Polypogon monspeliensis	-	-
-	-	-	-	Puccinellia spp.
Puccinellia stricta	Puccinellia stricta	Puccinelliia stricta	Puccinellia stricta	Puccinellia spp.
Spartina townsendii	Spartina townsendii	Spartina anglica	-	Spartina anglica
-	Sporobolus virginicus	Sporobolus virginicus	-	-
Vulpia megalura	-	-	-	-
-	-	Zoysia macrantha	Zoysia macrantha	-
Zoysia matrella	-	Zoysia matrella	-	-
Restionaceae				
Leptocarpus brownii	Leptocarpus brownii	Leptocarpus brownii	Apodasmia brownii	-
-	-	-	Leptocarpus tenax	-
Ruppiaceae				
-	Ruppia maritima	-	-	-

Appendix 2. An updated list of the vascular plants of Tasmanian saltmarsh wetlands

Scientific names as per de Salas and Baker, 2014 (i - introduced; r - rare; e - endemic)	Common names as per Wapstra et al., 2010	Book Page No. cf. Prahalad, 2014a	Plant Code (see Table 1 for details of codes used)
Aizoaceae	Pigface Family		
Carpobrotus edulis ⁱ	yellow pigface	_	Unc.i
Carpobrotus rossii	native pigface	p. 16	Occ.n
Disphyma crassifolium subsp. clavellatum	roundleaf pigface	p. 17	Com.n
Tetragonia implexicoma	bower spinach	p. 18	Occ.n
Tetragonia tetragonioides	new zealand spinach	-	Unc.n
Amaranthaceae	Amaranth Family		
Hemichroa pentandra	trailing saltstar	p. 19	Obl.n
Apiaceae	Celery Family		
Apium annuum	annual sea-celery	-	Unc.n
Apium prostratum subsp. prostratum var. prostratum	creeping sea-celery	p. 20	Com.n
Centella cordifolia	swampwort	-	Unc.n
Eryngium vesiculosum	prickfoot	p. 21	Occ.n
Hydrocotyle capillaris	thread pennywort	-	Unc.n
Hydrocotyle muscosa	mossy pennywort	-	Unc.n
Lilaeopsis polyantha	jointed swampstalks	p. 21	Com.n
Asteraceae	Daisy Family		
Angianthus preissianus	salt cupflower	p. 22	Com.n
Brachyscome graminea	grass daisy	p. 22	Occ.n
Centipeda elatinoides	spreading sneezeweed	-	Unc.n
Cotula coronopifolia ⁱ	water buttons	p. 23	Com.i
Cotula vulgaris var. australasica ^r	slender buttons	-	Unc.n
Gnaphalium indutum subsp. indutum	tiny cottonleaf	-	Unc.n

Y 7 17			Unc.i
Leontodon saxatilis	hairy hawkbit	-	
Leptinella longipes	coast buttons	p. 24	Com.n
Leptinella reptans	creeping buttons	-	Unc.n
Nablonium calyceroides	spiny everlasting	-	Unc.n
Senecio elegans	purple groundsel	-	Unc.i
Senecio pinnatifolius var. pinnatifolius	common coast groundsel	p. 25	Unc.n
Symphyotrichum subulatum	asterweed	-	Unc.i
Vellereophyton dealbatum	white cudweed	p. 25	Occ.i
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family		
Lobelia anceps	angled lobelia	p. 26	Com.n
Lobelia irrigua	salt pratia	p. 26	Occ.n
Caryophyllaceae	Starwort Family		
Spergularia bocconei	lesser sandspurrey	-	Occ.i
Spergularia marina	lesser seaspurrey	-	Occ.i
Spergularia rubra ⁱ	greater sandspurrey	-	Occ.i
Spergularia tasmanica	greater seaspurrey	p. 27	Obl.n
Casuarinaceae	Sheoak Family		
Allocasuarina verticillata	drooping sheoak	-	Ter.n
Chenopodiaceae	Goosefoot Family		
Atriplex australasica	southern saltbush	-	Unc.i?
Atriplex cinerea	grey saltbush	p. 28	Occ.n
Atriplex paludosa subsp. paludosa	marsh saltbush	p. 29	Obl.n
Atriplex prostrata	creeping orache	p. 30	Com.i
Atriplex semibaccata	berry saltbush	-	Unc.i
Atriplex suberecta	sprawling saltbush	-	Unc.n
Chenopodium glaucum	pale goosefoot	p. 31	Occ.i?
Rhagodia candolleana subsp. candolleana	coastal saltbush	p. 31	Occ.n
Salsola australis	prickly saltwort	-	Unc.n
	41-1-1-1	p. 32	Obl.n
Sarcocornia blackiana	thickhead glasswort	I -	
Sarcocornia blackiana Sarcocornia quinqueflora subsp. quinqueflora	beaded glasswort	p. 33	Obl.n

Suaeda maritima subsp. maritima ⁱ	annual seablite	-	Unc.i
Tecticornia arbuscula	shrubby glasswort	p. 35	Obl.n
Threlkeldia diffusa	coast bonefruit	-	Unc.n
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family		
Wilsonia backhousei	narrowleaf wilsonia	p. 36	Obl.n
Wilsonia humilis ^t	silky wilsonia	p. 37	Obl.n
Wilsonia rotundifolia ^t	roundleaf wilsonia	p. 38	Obl.n
Cuscutaceae	Dodder Family		
Cuscuta tasmanica ^t	golden dodder	p. 39	Obl.n
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family		
Euphorbia paralias ⁱ	sea spurge	p. 40	Unc.i
Fabaceae	Pea Family		
Lotus australis ^t	australian trefoil	-	Unc.n
Frankeniaceae	Seaheath Family		
Frankenia pauciflora var. gunnii ^t	southern seaheath	p. 41	Com.n
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family		
Centaurium tenuiflorum ⁱ	slender centaury	-	Unc.i
Schenkia australis ^t	spike centaury	-	Unc.n
Sebaea albidiflora	white sebaea	p. 41	Occ.n
Goodeniaceae	Native-primrose Family		
Scaevola hookeri	creeping fanflower	p. 42	Unc.n
Selliera radicans	shiny swampmat	p. 43	Obl.n
Malvaceae	Mallow Family		
Lawrencia spicata	candle saltmallow	p. 44	Obl.n
Lawrencia squamata ^{i?}	thorny saltmallow	-	Obl.i?
Myoporaceae	Boobialla Family		
Myoporum insulare	common boobialla	-	Ter.n
Myrtaceae	Myrtle Family		
Melaleuca ericifolia	coast paperbark	p. 45	Unc.n
Melaleuca gibbosa	slender honeymyrtle	-	Unc.n

Onagraceae	Willowherb Family				
Epilobium billardiereanum		p. 46	Unc.n		
subsp. billardiereanum	robust willowherb				
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family				
Plantago coronopus subsp.	slender buckshorn plantain	p. 47	Occ.i		
Plumbaginaceae	Leadwort Family				
Limonium australe var. australer	yellow sea-lavender	p. 48	Obl.n		
Limonium australe var. baudinii	tasmanian sea-lavender	-	Obl.e		
Polygonacea	Dock Family				
Rumex brownii	slender dock	-	Unc.n		
Rumex crispus	curled dock	-	Unc.i		
Portulacaceae	Purslane Family				
Portulaca oleracea	common purslane	-	Unc.n		
Primulaceae	Primrose Family				
Samolus repens var. repens	creeping brookweed	p. 49	Obl.n		
Rubiaceae	Madder Family				
Nertera granadensis	orange cushionbeads	-	Unc.n		
Scrophulariaceae	Snapdragon Family				
Mimulus repens	creeping monkeyflower	p. 50	Com.n		
Monocots	Monocots				
Centrolepidaceae	Bristlewort Family				
Centrolepis polygyna	wiry bristlewort	p. 54	Occ.n		
Cyperaceae	Sedge Family				
Baumea acuta	pale twigsedge	-	Unc.n		
Baumea arthrophylla	fine twigsedge	-	Unc.n		
Baumea juncea	bare twigsedge	p. 54	Occ.n		
Bolboschoenus caldwellii	sea clubsedge	-	Unc.n		
Carex appressa	tall sedge	-	Unc.n		
Eleocharis acuta	common spikesedge	p. 55	Unc.n		
Ficinia nodosa	knobby clubsedge	p. 55	Occ.n		
Gahnia filum	chaffy sawsedge	p. 56	Com.n		

Gahnia trifida	coast sawsedge	-	Occ.n
Isolepis cernua	nodding clubsedge	p. 57	Com.n
Isolepis inundata	swamp clubsedge	-	Unc.n
Isolepis platycarpa	flatfruit clubsedge	-	Unc.n
Schoenoplectus pungens	sharp clubsedge	p. 57	Occ.n
Schoenus nitens	shiny bogsedge	p. 58	Com.n
Juncaceae	Rush Family		
Juncus acutus ⁱ	sharp rush	p. 58	Occ.i
Juncus bufonius	toad rush	-	Unc.n
Juncus kraussii subsp. australiensis	sea rush	p. 59	Obl.n
Juncus pallidus	pale rush	-	Unc.n
Juncus planifolius	broadleaf rush	-	Unc.n
Juncus revolutus	creeping rush	-	Unc.n
Juncaginaceae	Water-ribbon Family		
Triglochin minutissimar	tiny arrowgrass	-	Unc.n
Triglochin mucronatar	prickly arrowgrass	-	Unc.n
Triglochin nana	dwarf arrowgrass	-	Unc.n
Triglochin striata	streaked arrowgrass	p. 60	Com.n
Poaceae	Grass Family		
Agrostis stolonifera ⁱ	creeping bent	-	Unc.i
Austrostipa stipoides	coast speargrass	p. 61	Com.n
Cynodon dactylon var. dactylon i	couchgrass	-	Occ.i
Deschampsia cespitosa	tufted hairgrass	p. 62	Occ.n
Distichlis distichophylla	australian saltgrass	p. 63	Com.n
Festuca arundinacea ⁱ	tall fescue	p. 64	Occ.i
Hainardia cylindrica ⁱ	thintail barbgrass	-	Unc.i
Hordeum marinum ⁱ	sea barleygrass	-	Unc.i
Lachnagrostis aemula	tumbling blowngrass	-	Unc.n
Lachnagrostis billardierei subsp. billardierei	coast blowngrass	p. 65	Occ.n
Lachnagrostis filiformis	common blowngrass	-	Unc.n
Parapholis incurva	coast barbgrass	p. 65	Occ.i
Phragmites australis	southern reed	p. 66	Occ.n

Poa annua	winter grass	-	Unc.i
Poa labillardieri var. labillardieri	silver tussockgrass	p. 67	Occ.n
Poa poiformis var. poiformis	coastal tussockgrass	-	Occ.n
Polypogon monspeliensis	annual beardgrass	p. 67	Occ.i
Puccinellia harcusianae	island saltmarshgrass	-	Obl.e
Puccinellia stricta	australian saltmarshgrass	p. 68	Obl.n
Spartina anglica	common cordgrass	p. 69	Obl.i
Sporobolus virginicus ^t	salt couch	p. 70	Com.n
Thinopyrum junceiforme	sea wheatgrass	-	Unc.i
Vulpia fasciculata	dune fescue	-	Unc.i
Vulpia myuros	foxtail or ratstail fescue (depending on respective forma)	-	Unc.i
Zoysia macrantha subsp. walshii	prickly couch	p. 71	Occ.n
Restionaceae	Cord-rush Family		
Apodasmia brownii	coarse twinerush	p. 72	Com.n
Leptocarpus tenax	slender twinerush	-	Unc.n
Ruppiaceae	Sea-tassel Family		
<i>Ruppia polycarpa</i>	manyfruit seatassel	-	Unc.n
Typhaceae	Cumbungi Family		
Typha domingensis	slender cumbungi	p. 73	Unc.n
Typha latifolia	great reedmace	-	Unc.i
Typha orientalis	broadleaf cumbungi	-	Unc.n