

Due to the low numbers of this species - *Epacris hamiltonii* is listed as an

endangered species

under both the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.



For more information look at the following websites:

<http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/>
<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au>
<http://www.green.net.au/rarespecies/>
<http://www.deh.gov.au/index.html>



How you can help

- Avoid planting invasive weed species (such as ivy and montbretia) in your garden—a weeds of the Blue Mountains booklet is available from Blue Mountains City Council.
- Minimise use of fertilisers.
- Dispose of chemicals thoughtfully.
- Prevent sediment entering our waterways — cover or vegetate piles of dirt and bare patches of soil.
- Always stick to tracks when walking through fragile habitat.
- Always observe Total Fire Ban days. Do not discard cigarette butts.
- Join your local Bushcare Group. For more details ring 02) 4780 5623 or e-mail: bushcare@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

our environment *it's a living thing*



A Blue Mountains Endangered Species

Epacris hamiltonii



Department of
Environment and
Conservation



Epacris hamiltonii

Epacris hamiltonii is a spreading, straggly shrub up to one metre high, often with more than one stem.

It is a fragile plant with very brittle branches, the small leaves are pointed and covered with silky hairs on both surfaces giving them a greyish, furry appearance.

The white tubular flowers appear from October to December, fruit is a capsule approximately 2mm long.



Habitat

This species is only found in three creeklines in the upper Blue Mountains. It grows under wet cliff overhangs next to temperate rainforest. This species is dependant upon water seepage through the sandstone cliffs.

Species that often grow nearby include King Fern (*Todea barbara*), Rough Tree Fern (*Cyathea australis*), Coral Fern (*Gleichenia rupestris*), Hard Water Fern (*Blechnum watsii*) and Fuschia Heath (*Epacris longiflora*).



Habitat of *Epacris hamiltonii*



Why is it Endangered ?

The predominant threats to this species include :

- damage from bushwalkers or canyioners.
- frequent Fire.
- water Pollution
- changes to the water table.



Epacris hamiltonii seedlings

This species takes over nine years to grow from a seedling to an adult plant which flowers and produces seed. This length of time means that if a fire burns its habitat every five years this species could be made locally extinct before the soil has built up adequate seed stocks.