

Identification of *Epacris hamiltonii*

Description

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



E. hamiltonii habitat under overhang above creekline.

This species is only found in three creeklines in the upper Blue Mountains. It grows under wet cliff overhangs adjacent 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

Effects of Fire

A large percentage of *E. hamiltonii* habitat has been severely burnt in the last few years. Due to the peaty substrate that this species often grows in, the habitat is extremely fragile and easily damaged. Great care should be taken when walking in these areas. *E. hamiltonii* germinates readily after fire (if the fire interval is >15 years), and the seedlings are often prolific, almost forming ‘carpets’ in some areas.



Burnt *E. hamiltonii* habitat.
Arrows point to areas of *E. hamiltonii*
germination



E. hamiltonii seedlings in burnt habitat



Resprouting *E. hamiltonii* after fire



Closeup of *E. hamiltonii* seedling