



PLANT

*Austrostipa echinata*

Spiny Spear-grass

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	R	T	State	Perennial

Family GRAMINEAE



Photo: © Ron Taylor

**Conservation Significance**

Endemic to SA. The AMLR distribution is disjunct, and isolated from other extant occurrences within SA. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'.<sup>1</sup>

**Description**

Stiff upright spear-grass, forming spiny tussocks to 50 cm tall. Smooth, erect leaves up to 30 cm with a pungent tip, light blue green, ribbed surface. Small dense panicle flower heads. Very long awns 8-10 cm.<sup>2,3,4</sup>

**Distribution and Population**

In SA found in EP, MU, YP, SL and SE regions.<sup>3</sup>

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records restricted to the Fisheries Beach area, on the tip of the Southern Fleurieu Peninsula.<sup>1</sup> Over 200 plants were recorded from Cape Jervis below the clifftop in a 1998 survey, over a discrete area of 100 m<sup>2</sup>. Also recorded from Hindmarsh Island at Ferryman's Reserve. It is unknown if the species has declined in the region (R. Taplin *pers. comm.*).

The population at Cape Jervis area includes the trig point escarpment and the slopes below (Ron Taylor *pers. comm.*).

There are no pre-1983 records.<sup>1</sup>

**Habitat**

Occurs on sand associated with limestone, in coastal and near-coastal areas. Grows in mallee and open scrub.<sup>3,4</sup> Recorded from Cape Jervis in light sandy soil with little depth over clay and broken calcrete with *Triodia compacta*, *Lomandra collina* and *Kunzea pomifera*.<sup>2</sup> The area contains a number of locally significant species such as *Hibbertia pallidiflora*, *Wurmbea latifolia* ssp. *vanessae* and *Pultenaea densifolia* (Ron Taylor *pers. comm.*).

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation group is Coastal.<sup>1</sup>

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'High'.<sup>1</sup>

**Biology and Ecology**

Flowers between October and November.<sup>3</sup>

**Aboriginal Significance**

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in south-west Ngarrindjeri Nation.<sup>1</sup>

**Threats**

The area where the species occurs is under considerable pressure from increasing recreational use at the end of Lands End Road to the coast. The area is visited by significant numbers of fishermen and surfers who access the coast through this vegetation with no formal or designated paths (Ron Taylor *pers. comm.*).

Current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

**Further information:**

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region  
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999  
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014



Government  
of South Australia



# ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department  
for Environment  
and Heritage

## Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.<sup>1</sup> Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

## References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

**1** Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.

**2** Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *State Herbarium of South Australia Database*. Unpublished data, extracted October 2007.

**3** Jessop, J., Dashorst, G. R. M. and James, F. M. (2006). *Grasses of South Australia. An illustrated guide to the native and naturalised species*. Wakefield Press, South Australia.

**4** Sharp, D. and Simon, B. K. (2002). *AusGrass: Grasses of Australia* (Version 1.0, July 2002). Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra, and the Environmental Protection Agency, Queensland.

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