



PLANT

Cullen parvum

Small Scurf-pea

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	V	E	-	Perennial

Family LEGUMINOSAE



Photo: © John Eichler, www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Conservation Significance

The AMLR distribution is disjunct, isolated from other extant occurrences within SA. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Very Restricted'. Relative to all AMLR extant species, the species' taxonomic uniqueness is classified as 'High'.³

Formerly known as *Psoralea parva*.⁴

Description

Squat perennial herb with stems that may trail along the ground and reach up to 50 cm long. Stems bear leaves of up to three leaflets, each up to 2.5 cm long. Small bluish-white, lilac or pink 'pea' flowers occur at ends of erect flowering stalks present on the trailing stems. Fruit is small and covered in dense white hairs (Jeanes 1996; Muir 1991, 1992).⁴

Distribution and Population

Also occurs in VIC and NSW.² In SA, occurs in FR, EA, NL, MU and SL regions, mostly occurring in a patchy linear distribution from Adelaide to the central Flinders Ranges. Very uncommon in the Adelaide region.¹

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records isolated from south of Adelaide in the Mitcham area, south of Happy Valley

Reservoir, and north-east of Adelaide at and near Black Hill CP.³

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records from the north-eastern and south-western suburbs of Adelaide.³

Habitat

Generally associated with alluvial plains, creeks, ephemeral pools and river channels. Also reported from artificial drains and other disturbed sites. Grows in grassy woodland or open forest vegetation dominated by *Eucalyptus* spp., or in grasslands.⁴

Throughout its former range in SA, virtually all native vegetation occurring on heavier soils has been cleared or is grazed.¹

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Grassy Woodland and Grassland.³

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'Moderate-Low'.³

Biology and Ecology

Deep-rooted plant that grows and flowers in summer and autumn. Top growth dies back in winter and plants are dormant until late spring.¹

In SA, presence has been reported after exceptional rains and plants are known to respond to summer floods (Bates 2004).⁴

Grows readily from seed and successfully cultivated at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra and at Melbourne Botanical Garden (CHABG 1994).^{1,4}

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in Kurna Nation (the northern extent bordering Peramangk Nation).³

Threats

Threats include:

- habitat loss and/or degradation (Lang and Kraehenbuehl 1998)⁵
- weed competition
- inappropriate fire, mowing or herbicide regimes (Muir 1991, 1992)
- damage from trampling by livestock in wet seasons (Muir 1992)
- grazing by animals, including rabbits (Wlodarczyk and Beames 2004).⁴

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





ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

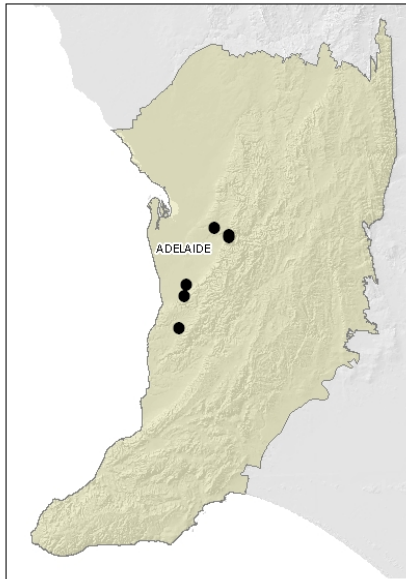
Threatened Species Profile

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Scarlett (cited in Muir 1991) noted that in VIC plants may fail to re-emerge from the rootstock in the absence of winter flooding.⁴

Approximately half of known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected *Phytophthora* infestations.³

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.³ 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 Davies, R. J.-P. (1986). *Threatened Plant Species of the Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island Regions of South Australia*. Conservation Council of South Australia Inc., Adelaide.

2 Department for Environment and Heritage *Electronic Flora of South Australia species Fact Sheet: Corybas unguiculatus (R.Br.) Rchb.f.* Available from <http://www.flora.sa.gov.au> (accessed August 2007).

3 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.

4 Threatened Species Scientific Committee (2005). *Small Scurf-pea, Small Psoralea (Cullen parvum)*. Advice to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage on Amendments to the list of Threatened Species under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC

Act). Available from <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/cullen-parvum.html> (accessed August 2007).

5 Turner, M. S. (2001). *Conserving Adelaide's Biodiversity: Resources*. Urban Forest Biodiversity Program, Adelaide.

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