

Granite tetratheca

E n d a n g e r e d F l o r a o f W e s t e r n A u s t r a l i a

**If you think you've seen this plant, please call
CALM Merredin District on (08) 9041 2488**

Commonly known as granite tetratheca, *Tetratheca deltoidea* is a delicate, leafy trailing shrub that grows up to 1 m in height. The species' name is derived from the Greek *delta* referring to the distinct triangular shape of its leaves. Between September and December, strongly scented, dark pink flowers to 1cm across occur singly from leaf axils.

Plants typically grow in clumps, and climb or twine through neighbouring plants. Plants spread by producing suckers from underground stems.

Granite tetratheca is found in soil pockets on a single granite hill near Kellerberrin.

The species was first collected in 1889 by a Mrs. G. Swell. It was then not seen again until rediscovered 90 years later by Stephen Hopper of Kings Park and Botanic Garden while carrying out research on *Eucalyptus caesia*.

Granite tetratheca was declared as Rare flora in 1992 and ranked as Critically Endangered in 1995.

CALM has set up the Merredin District Threatened Flora Recovery Team to co-ordinate recovery actions addressing the most threatening processes affecting the species' survival in the wild (See overleaf).

There is only one place where the granite tetratheca is currently known to occur and CALM is keen to know of any others.

If unable to contact the District office on the above number, please phone CALM's Wildlife Branch on (08) 9334 0422.



Note the distinct triangular-shaped leaves of granite tetratheca. Photo – Stephen Hopper

Recovery of a Species



CALM is committed to ensuring that Critically Endangered taxa do not become extinct in the wild. This is done through the preparation of a Recovery Plan (RP) or Interim Recovery Plan (IRP), which outlines the recovery actions that are required to urgently address those threatening processes most affecting the ongoing survival of threatened taxa in the wild and begin the recovery process.

IRPs are prepared by CALM and implemented by Regional or District Recovery teams consisting of representatives from CALM, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, community groups, private landowners, local Shires and various government organisations.

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Essential recovery actions that have been implemented to protect the species include:

Protection from current threats: Regular monitoring of the health of each population; controlling the grazing of native and introduced animals; controlling weeds and developing a fire management plan.

Protection from future threats: Collection of seed for long term storage at CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); ensuring that relevant authorities, land owners and CALM personnel are aware of the species' presence and the need to protect it, and that all are familiar with the threatening processes identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.

Desirable recovery actions, which are progressively being implemented, include:

Conducting further surveys to search for new populations; researching the biology and ecology of granite tetratheca; and enhancing plant numbers by the amelioration of a limiting factor, or by direct propagation and translocation techniques.

IRPs will be deemed a success if essential recovery actions have been implemented, and identified threatening processes have been removed within three years of their approval.



Granite tetratheca grows under *Eucalyptus caesia* in shallow soils on a granite outcrop. Photo – Emma Holland



The attractive strongly scented, dark pink flowers of granite tetratheca. Photo – Luke Sweedman

