



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Granite zieria

Zieria obcordata

Endangered

Granite zieria (*Zieria obcordata*) is a rounded, perennial shrub up to 0.5 metres high. Its leaves are composed of three wedge-shaped leaflets, covered with small warts on the upper surface. The tip of the central leaflet is characteristically recurved to give it a notched appearance. Each leaflet is 3.0–8.5 millimetres long and 1.3–3.7 millimetres wide, with toothed margins.

Its flowers have four pale pink, rapidly fading to white petals, each 2–2.5 millimetres long. Its fruit is in a capsule about 5 millimetres across, deeply divided into four chambers.

The main flowering period for *Zieria obcordata* is in spring (September to October), but plants tend to have flowers present throughout the year.

This species grows in eucalypt woodland or shrubland dominated by species of *Acacia* on rocky granite hillsides. It also occurs in *Eucalyptus* and *Callitris* dominated woodland with an open, low shrub understorey growing on moderately steep, mainly west to north-facing slopes in sandy loam

amongst granite boulders. The altitude range of sites is 500 to 830 metres.

It is known from only two locations about 105 kilometres apart. One is in the Wuuluman area near Wellington, comprising a single subpopulation over three sites with up to 200 plants. The second is in the Crackerjack Rock/Rock Forests area north west of Bathurst, which has a subpopulation comprising 14 sites containing up to approximately 800 plants in good seasons.

The endangered *Zieria obcordata* is extremely sensitive to grazing and browsing disturbances by domestic stock and native herbivores such as wallabies.

In wild populations, plants tend to grow in crevices between granite boulders. The species has proved to be very difficult to cultivate from seed. The best growth has been achieved with plant cuttings in a very sandy well-drained soil. Wild plants have strongly aromatic leaves.

Support local action and help save *Zieria obcordata*



The *Zieria obcordata* flower has four pale pink petals.
Photo: Geoff Robertson/DPIE



The rounded shrub of *Zieria obcordata* is 0.5 metres high.
Photo: Geoff Robertson/DPIE

Zieria obcordata is declining in numbers mainly due to grazing by domestic stock and wallabies.

Other threats to the species include:

- weed invasion (numerous exotic forbs, grasses and tree of heaven)
- habitat degradation (destruction of native understorey and microhabitats such as crevices between boulders and fallen branches)
- sites vulnerable to changes in stocking practices (such as the introduction of goats)
- limited observation of seedlings and juveniles. Browsing may be destroying the flowers and limiting subsequent seed pod growth
- total population size and extent of occupancy of the species not being accurately known until the majority of suitable habitat between known populations has been adequately surveyed
- loss of mature plants and no regeneration due to repeated and lengthy dry periods combined with temperature extremes over summer months.

Saving our Species (SoS) is working in partnership with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department), National Parks and Wildlife Service, a wide range of other organisations and private landowners to conserve *Zieria obcordata*. Management activities are being undertaken through the SoS program at four priority management sites near Dubbo and Bathurst.

The recovery effort aims to:

- monitor populations to increase knowledge about biology and ecology of the species
- fence all sites to exclude grazing by domestic stock and goats
- fence selected large plants from all grazing to act as a future seed source
- control vigorous weeds such as tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and bridle creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*)
- raise awareness of this species in areas where potential habitat is present to increase the chance of recognition and reporting by landholders.

You too can help

To support the ongoing success of the recovery of *Zieria obcordata*, private landowners should report all new sightings of the species to the Department. Once new populations are confirmed, discussions can be undertaken as to how the Department can assist landholders in managing the species.

SoS is a NSW Government flagship program targeting on-ground action to secure threatened plants and animals from extinction. The program aims to increase the number of species that can survive securely in the wild.

SoS can only succeed if we work together. We need your support to ensure that today's actions help to secure the future of NSW's threatened species.

Find out more about threatened species in New South Wales and the SoS program at environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS