



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Merimbula star-hair

Astrotricha sp. wallagaraugh

Endangered

The Merimbula star-hair is a single or multi-stemmed shrub growing up to 1 metre tall, though occasionally taller. The stems are straight and smaller branches are woolly.

Merimbula star-hair leaves look similar to the leaves on a rosemary bush, about 20–60 mm long and 1.5–2 mm wide. They are hairy or woolly underneath.

Its tiny flowers are cream in colour, and form a cluster at the end of the branch. Flowering occurs between October and December.

The Merimbula star-hair is rare and is only found in three places in New South Wales.

One population is in the Timbillica State Forest, along the upper reaches of the Wallagaraugh River, about 30 km south-west of Eden.

Another population occurs in the coastal vegetation along the Merimbula foreshore.

The largest population is centred in the township of Tura Beach, north of Merimbula. This population extends into Bournda National Park, with some of it concentrated along a roadside.

The Merimbula star-hair was only recognised as a new species in 1992 when taxonomists realised it was different to its widespread relative *Astrotricha linearis*.

In some places, such as Tura Beach, the Merimbula star-hair is locally common, which can give the appearance that it isn't a threatened species.

The Merimbula star-hair plant seems to respond vigorously after fire.

Support local action and help save the Merimbula star-hair



Merimbula star-hair bush Photo: Andrew Morrison



Buds of the Merimbula star-hair. Photo: Sara Goldin/OEH

NSW south coast volunteers have been assisting the Office of Environment and Heritage, and Bega Valley Shire, to monitor existing populations, look for new plants, and survey the extent of the Merimbula star-hair plant. It is found on council managed land, in national parks and on privately owned bush blocks. Landowners can protect the Merimbula star-hair and its habitat by protecting existing plants and avoiding important patches when designing their homes and gardens.

If you are interested to know if you have the Merimbula star-hair on your property, or want to raise awareness and inspire your community to care for the Merimbula star-hair, and other threatened species, contact the Saving our Species team. We can forward some resources to assist you:

merimbula.starhair@environment.nsw.gov.au

The NSW Government's Biodiversity Conservation Trust encourages and supports landholders to conserve and manage biodiversity on private land. Landholders who wish to protect the Merimbula star-hair on their properties can find out more about private land conservation options here: <https://www.bct.nsw.gov.au/>

If you want to get involved in caring for threatened species, volunteering and research projects related to threatened species, you can find out more here: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/help-save-our-threatened-species>



Join us to take part in our community surveys for the Merimbula star-hair. Photo: Sara Goldin/OEH

Saving our Species 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.

Saving our Species 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.

To find out more about threatened species in NSW and the Saving our Species program: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS

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OEH 2018/0428 August 2018