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National Environmental Science Programme



# Action Plan for Australia's Imperilled Plants 2020

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Silcock, J., Collingwood, T., Llorens, T., Fensham R. 2020. Action Plan for Australia's Imperilled Plants. NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub, Brisbane.

Cover Image: TOP: *Daviesia cunderdin*. Image: J and F Hort for Bert Hort  
BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT: *Petrophile latericola*. Image: Andrew Crawford; *Solanum orgadophilum*. Image: Teghan Collingwood;  
*Borya mirabilis*. Image: Noushka Reiter

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## Executive Summary

Australia's flora is globally distinctive, with more than 90% of its >22,500 native vascular plant species found nowhere else in the world. Humans have observed, utilised, celebrated and altered the Australian flora for at least 65,000 years. Anthropogenic changes to the vegetation have accelerated since European colonisation beginning 230 years ago, most drastically through extensive land clearing for agriculture and urbanisation, introduction of alien plants, animals and diseases, and the interruption of ecological processes such as fire regimes, erosion and hydrology. Despite these massive upheavals, plants do not share the parlous recent extinction record of Australia's mammal fauna, with a recent analysis identifying only 12 plants (<0.05% of the total flora) that are likely to be extinct.

Nevertheless, plants comprise more than two-thirds of nationally-listed threatened species, and the population trends and management requirements of the majority of these are poorly documented. Given the sheer number of threatened plants occurring in Australia, it was not feasible to provide comprehensive profiles on all threatened species. Instead, detailed profiles were compiled for the 50 Australian plant species identified as having the highest imminent extinction risk – termed the 'imperilled' plants – due to severe continuing declines. These species were identified through extensive literature review and >100 expert interviews.

This Action Plan aims to help prevent extinctions of Australia's imperilled flora through collation of existing knowledge and clear statement of required recovery actions. We also identify critical information gaps compromising conservation status assessments and management. The Action Plan also provides a clear baseline for charting the trajectory of our imperilled flora.

Chapter 1 outlines the context and aims of the Action Plan. Chapter 2 details methods and definitions used in the Plan, including explanations of information provided in each species profile. Chapter 3 presents an overview of the 50 imperilled species, including regions and habitats where they are concentrated and the threats to their survival. The majority of Australia's imperilled species occur in heavily-cleared and fragmented habitats, and are now restricted to a handful of subpopulations in small remnants that are vulnerable to ongoing loss and degradation. Many species are not recruiting, and the reasons for this are often not well understood particularly with regard to germination biology and appropriate disturbance regimes. The imperilled species that occur in relatively intact habitat are typically severely impacted by a variety of interacting threats, notably altered disturbance regimes and the plant diseases myrtle rust *Austropuccinia psidii* and phytophthora *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

Chapter 4 contains the 50 species profiles. Each profile includes photographs, brief descriptions, distribution overview including map, population trends (including time-series monitoring data where available), summary of habitat and ecology, assessment of threat impacts, and assessments against International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria. Current recovery actions and objectives are identified, as well as future management and research needs. All profiles were reviewed by between one and seven experts. Chapter 5 summarises recovery actions, research required and management priorities to prevent extinctions of Australia's imperilled species.

This Action Plan highlights five key areas that will underpin and advance conservation of Australia's flora:

1. Continue and expand site-based conservation of imperilled species. Numerous recent examples show that targeted, long-term and adequately-funded recovery actions have halted declines in population abundance of some highly threatened species.
2. Ensure that monitoring is consistent, repeatable and uses species-appropriate methods, to allow confident interpretation of population trends in response to threats and management actions.
3. Expand targeted surveys and research on poorly-known species where threats and/or declines are inferred or suspected.
4. Support taxonomic research to clarify the status of potentially imperilled species.
5. Review this Plan in 10 years to inform the trajectory of imperilled plant species, encompassing the plants included here and others that may subsequently be assessed as imperilled.



## About the authors



**Jen Silcock** has studied threatened species and rangeland ecology across Australia for the past 15 years. She has researched some iconic and intriguing plant communities including desert springs, mulga shrublands and stony hills, and enigmatic fauna species including Night Parrots, Yellow-Footed Rock Wallabies and the Greater Bilby. Since 2016, she has focused on threatened Australian plant conservation through the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub.



**Teghan Collingwood** has spent the past two years with the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub documenting the conservation status of Australia's flora. This included the first comprehensive IUCN Red List assessment of Australian eucalypts for the Global Trees Campaign, assessing myrtle rust dieback in the Wet Tropics and compiling numerous threatened species nominations.



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**Rod Fensham** does research related to the ecology and conservation of native vegetation at the Queensland Herbarium. He also teaches and supervises students at the University of Queensland. He disseminates his findings not only by publishing but also through conservation planning, policy and practice.

## Acknowledgements

This work was funded by the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) through the Threatened Species Recovery Hub, based at The University of Queensland, and the Department of Environment and Science, Queensland. Selection of the imperilled plants for inclusion in the Plan, and the compilation of species profiles involved consultation with more than 100 botanists, ecologists, land managers and community members. We thank all those who shared their knowledge of plants, provided unpublished data and reviewed profiles. These experts are acknowledged in each profile. The collective knowledge and passion of the Australian botanical community is inspiring. In particular, some people contributed detailed comments to a large number of profiles, and we especially thank Neville Walsh (VIC) and Bob Makinson (NSW). The Plan is greatly enhanced by beautiful photographs from around Australia, and Glenn Leiper and Andrew Crawford are especially thanked for allowing the use of many of their images.

We also thank the NESP team: Rachel Morgain for input, ideas and liaison with stakeholders, Stephen Garnett for advice on profile layouts, and Mary Ryan, Kate Donnelly and Jaana Dielenberg for design and communication expertise. Dorothee Sampayo and Alastair Silcock proof read and provided comments on the text.

# 1. Introduction

The Australian flora is distinctive, with more than 90% of its >22,500 native vascular plant species occurring nowhere else in the world (Chapman 2009; Fensham and Laffineur 2019). This diversity evolved over millions of years in response to changing climatic conditions and continental drift (Rossetto 2015). Nutrient-poor soils, minimal altitudinal relief and large-scale disturbance events have driven the diversification of the Australian flora, which has endured through a period of relatively long geographic isolation (Rossetto 2015). Australia's flora today retains elements of Gondwanan rainforests but is dominated by sclerophyllous species, including over 1000 *Acacia* species and more than 800 eucalypts (*Angophora*, *Corymbia* and *Eucalyptus* species). Biogeographic barriers have created unique vegetation communities, such as those that evolved on isolated mountain peaks or in tiny desert springs. Plant diversity and endemism are disproportionately high in particular areas, notably the Southwest Australian Floristic Region and the Forests of East Australia, which are recognised as global biodiversity hotspots (Mittermeier *et al.* 2011).

The Australian flora includes the spectacular (spring wildflowers of south-western WA), iconic (desert ghost gums, giant boabs of the Kimberley), biogeographically intriguing (the wollemi pine and Central Australian cabbage palm), bizarre (orchids with cunning and deceptive sex-lives), painful (stinging trees and the ubiquitous burrs of the inland), and increasingly, gourmet (saltbush, mountain pepper-berry, quandong, Davidson plum). A select few species are also widely cultivated in gardens and public spaces. However, with these notable exceptions, the vast majority of Australia's plants are cryptic, seldom-observed and poorly-known. The rate of 'discoveries', with an estimated 250 flowering plant taxa newly described each year in Australia (Chapman 2009), is testament to the relatively poorly-known nature of our flora in a scientific sense. However, this was not always the case.

Humans have observed, utilised, celebrated and altered the Australian flora since their arrival at least 65,000 years ago (Clarkson *et al.* 2017). Over 4000 vascular flora species – nearly 20% of the scientifically-described flora – were, and some still are, used by Aboriginal people as food and medicine, and many more species were used as materials (Ens *et al.* 2017). Anthropogenic fire management (Gammage 2011; Yibarbuk *et al.* 2001), human niche construction (Lullfitz *et al.* 2017), modification of trees for resource extraction and ceremonial purposes (Black 1941; Morrison and Shepard 2013; Webber and Burns 2004), and the intentional dispersal and nurture of important plants (Silcock 2018) have collectively influenced the distribution and composition of vegetation communities and species.

European colonisation over the past 200 years has greatly accelerated anthropogenic changes to Australia's vegetation, most drastically through extensive clearing for agriculture and urbanisation, particularly in coastal and sub-coastal areas from Queensland to South Australia and in south-western Australia. Remnants in heavily cleared areas typically cover a fraction of their former extent, and are now subject to a range of threats, including weed invasion, increased herbivore densities, lack of appropriate disturbance regimes, changed hydrology, infrastructure maintenance, and pollution and run-off from adjacent land uses. Even seemingly intact vegetation can be negatively impacted by weeds, herbivores, altered fire and disturbance regimes, pathogens such as phytophthora (*Phytophthora* spp.) and myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*), and, increasingly, climate change. More than 12% of Australia's flora species are post-European naturalisations (Fensham and Laffineur 2019). While these include some destructive weeds, the vast majority live alongside native species and do not yet disrupt ecosystem function.

Vascular plants underpin the structure and function of all terrestrial ecosystems and comprise over 70% of nationally-listed threatened species in Australia. Australia's parlous record of species declines and extinctions since European colonisation is well-documented for mammals (Burbidge *et al.* 2008; McKenzie *et al.* 2007; Woinarski *et al.* 2015) and birds (Garnett *et al.* 2011; Szabo *et al.* 2012). The most recent conservation assessment of Australia's threatened flora (Silcock and Fensham 2018) provided a timely update to the preceding assessment undertaken more than two decades ago (Briggs and Leigh 1996). By compiling published information and expert knowledge, Silcock and Fensham (2018) identified plant species with high extinction risk based on documented declines, rather than rarity alone.

This assessment (Silcock and Fensham 2018), together with a re-assessment of extinction likelihood for presumed extinct taxa (Silcock *et al.* 2020), highlights that the Australian flora has fared relatively well despite the upheavals of European land management, in stark contrast to its fauna (Woinarski *et al.* 2019). Only 12 taxa are assessed as being probably extinct (Table 1), and a further 21 possibly extinct. The remaining 71 taxa currently presumed extinct have dubious taxonomy or occurrence in Australia, or are possibly extant and require further surveys to ascertain their status (Silcock *et al.* 2020). However the first continental analysis of trends of Australian threatened plants, combining data from 112 species at 600 sites, suggests that threatened plant populations have declined by almost three-quarters on average in two decades – much higher than that recorded for birds or mammals (Threatened Species Index 2020). This suggests that numerous plant species may be declining towards extinction.

This Action Plan aims to highlight the plight of Australia's most threatened plant species and outline research and management actions required to halt future extinctions.

**Table 1. Presumed extinct plants in Australia. For more detail on each species, and the methodology used to assess extinction likelihood, see Silcock *et al.* (2020). EX, Extinct in the Wild; CR, Critically Endangered; EN, Endangered; VU, Vulnerable; P1, Priority 1 Flora (Western Australia)**

| Species (Family)                                     | EPBC Act (State)           | Bioregion (State)                                | Lifeform        | Last collected | No. collections (popns) | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Almost certainly extinct in wild</b>              |                            |                                                  |                 |                |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <i>Allocasuarina portuensis</i> (Casuarinaceae)      | EN (EN)                    | Sydney Basin (NSW)                               | Shrub           | 1998           | 2 (1)                   | When first collected in 1986, population was 10 plants (eight females) over 100 m. By 1998, only two females remained. This original wild population is now extinct but translocated individuals survive |
| <i>Streblorrhiza speciosa</i> (Fabaceae)             | Not listed (EX under IUCN) | Pacific Subtropical Islands (Norfolk Island)     | Shrub           | 1830           | 3 (1)                   | Island vegetation grossly modified by feral herbivores. Possibility of some plants still in cultivation in Europe, but searches unsuccessful                                                             |
| <b>Probably extinct</b>                              |                            |                                                  |                 |                |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <i>Picris compacta</i> (Asteraceae)                  | Not listed (EX)            | Swan Coastal Plain (WA)                          | Annual forb     | 1941           | 2 (1)                   | Known from two collections, one presumed to come from a now-cleared alluvial freshwater wetland                                                                                                          |
| <i>Tetratheca fasciculata</i> (Elaeocarpaceae)       | EX (EX)                    | Avon Wheatbelt; Jarrah Forest (WA)               | Perennial forb  | 1895           | 4 (2)                   | Habitat mostly cleared                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <i>Acacia kingiana</i> (Fabaceae)                    | EX (EX)                    | Avon Wheatbelt (WA)                              | Shrub           | 1923           | 1 (1)                   | Habitat mostly cleared                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <i>Gentianella clelandii</i> (Gentianaceae)          | Not listed (EN)            | Naracoorte Coastal Plain (SA)                    | Annual forb     | 1947           | 2 (1)                   | Only known from one locality, collected in 1947; swamps have been modified and heavily grazed                                                                                                            |
| <i>Gentianella wingecarr-ibiensis</i> (Gentianaceae) | EN (CR)                    | Sydney Basin (NSW)                               | Annual forb     | 2000           | 10 (2)                  | Cryptic/enigmatic, but no plants found in past 15 years and high degree of habitat modification                                                                                                          |
| <i>Darwinia divisa</i> (Myrtaceae)                   | Not listed (P1)            | Avon Wheatbelt (WA)                              | Shrub           | 1965           | 1 (1)                   | Habitat mostly cleared                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <i>Prasophyllum colemaniarum</i> (Orchidaceae)       | VU (EX)                    | South East Coastal Plain (VIC)                   | Ground orchid   | 1924           | 2 (1)                   | Site of collection was well-known and regularly visited until 1970s when it was destroyed by rail upgrade                                                                                                |
| <i>Deyeuxia appressa</i> (Poaceae)                   | EN (EN)                    | Sydney Basin (NSW)                               | Perennial grass | 1942           | 2 (2)                   | Habitat mostly cleared                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <i>Persoonia laxa</i> (Proteaceae)                   | EX (EX)                    | Sydney Basin (NSW)                               | Shrub           | 1908           | 2 (2)                   | Failure to collect from such a well-botanised area for >100 years suggests it is extinct, especially given modification of its habitat                                                                   |
| <i>Solanum bauerianum</i> (Solanaceae)               | Not listed (EX)            | Pacific Subtropical Islands (Lord Howe; Norfolk) | Shrub           | 1937           | 2 (8)                   | Not collected since 1830; high degree of habitat loss, and rats probably consumed fruits/seeds                                                                                                           |

## 1.1 Aims of this Action Plan

This Action Plan is modelled upon and designed to complement the recent Action Plans for Australia's Threatened Birds (Garnett *et al.* 2011 and in prep.), Mammals (Woinarski *et al.* 2014), and Lizards and Snakes (Chapple *et al.* 2019). Given the sheer number of rare and threatened plant species occurring in Australia (>1300 are listed as threatened at a national level and at least ten times this number as rare or threatened in State and Territory jurisdictions), it was not feasible to provide comprehensive reviews of the current conservation status of all threatened plants. Instead, detailed profiles were compiled for the 50 Australian plant species identified as having the highest extinction risk— hereafter termed the 'imperilled' plants. These species meet the criteria for 'category 5' circumscribed by Silcock and Fensham (2018).

Internationally accepted IUCN criteria (2019) have guided each assessment, and the information compiled can directly inform nominations under the Common Assessment Method (CAM), which is currently aligning conservation assessments between State and Federal jurisdictions.

Similar to the other Action Plans, this Action Plan aims to:

- Identify the plant species most urgently requiring conservation management to reduce their extinction risk;
- Provide a comprehensive and consistent review of the status of these species based on IUCN criteria;
- Identify management actions required to recover these species;
- Identify critical information gaps that compromise conservation status assessments and conservation management;
- Provide a baseline for charting changes in population parameters, trends and conservation status for our most imperilled flora.

## 2. Methods and definitions

### 2.1 Identification of imperilled species for inclusion in the Action Plan

Data were compiled on all Australian plant taxa listed as Critically Endangered and Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and/or State and Territory legislation, as per the methods described in Silcock and Fensham (2018). Seven species listed as Extinct that had been recently 're-discovered' were also included. Taxa that were not likely to meet Endangered criteria on a national level (i.e. are listed based on their distribution in one state, as is the case for numerous species in Victoria and New South Wales) were excluded, as were hybrids, varieties and those considered taxonomically dubious by relevant experts. The candidate list comprised 1135 taxa.

Sources of information included Australasian Virtual Herbarium records, recovery plans, conservation and listing advice, species profiles, reports, peer-reviewed literature and semi-structured interviews with 125 experts. These were conducted between February 2016 and November 2017. For each species, the following data were collated: conservation status (EPBC Act and State or Territory), bioregion occurrence (DAWE 2012), broad habitat preference, estimated number of subpopulations (defined as geographically isolated occurrences with infrequent dispersal between them (Keith 2000)), total population estimate (where available, accurate estimates were often not available, so IUCN (2019) thresholds were used, i.e. <50, <250, <1000, <2500, <10 000 or >10 000; threats (divided into past, documented/current, and potential/suspected), evidence of decline (past and continuing), whether the taxon had been thoroughly searched for in suitable habitat (i.e. the likelihood that its current known distribution and abundance reflects its actual distribution and abundance), and references and/or experts consulted.

To identify the taxa most at risk of extinction, we focused on elucidating current population trends. Identifying population declines is difficult, due to the paucity of repeatable time-series monitoring data for the vast majority of the world's species and the long timeframes necessary to identify trends (Brummitt *et al.* 2015; Clark and Bjornstad 2004; Jenkins *et al.* 2003). There is seldom quantified evidence of species declines (Rayner *et al.* 2014) and threatened species lists tend to be dominated by narrow-range endemics with small distributions and/or population sizes (Burgman 2002; McIntyre 1992; Silcock *et al.* 2014). However, given that extinction is the end-point of unhalted population declines, and because intrinsically rare species may have ecological syndromes and breeding systems that are adapted to survival in small populations (Coates and Atkins 2001; Flather and Sieg 2007; Mace and Kershaw 1997; Yates *et al.* 2007), declining species should be the highest conservation concern.



Expert opinion was critical in assessing population trends, as consistent monitoring data spanning the time periods required to detect trends were rarely available (Silcock and Fensham 2018). Even where these time-series data were available, interpretation was often difficult. Expert opinion often differed from data trends, typically due to inconsistencies in monitoring techniques or survey comprehensiveness between years, discovery of new plants, and observations not available from simple population counts (e.g. demographic data or observations of threats). Expert observations and perceptions, when not supported by quantitative data, are also subject to inaccuracies and bias. We attempted to minimise subjectivity by using targeted and consistently phrased questions where experts were asked to justify or qualify their assessments of population trends and threats. Continuing declines were often not quantified (observed), so could also be suspected, inferred or projected (IUCN 2019) (e.g. based on decline in quality of habitat or observed lack of recruitment).

Taxa with evidence of continuing decline were then scored according to whether all subpopulations were declining, abundance of the taxon, magnitude and certainty of decline, and extinction risk. Silcock and Fensham (2018) identified 418 taxa with a documented, suspected or projected continuing decline. Of these, 55 taxa had documented continuing declines across all subpopulations and were considered to be at very high risk ('category 5') of extinction within three generations or 100 years, whichever was longer (IUCN 2019; Silcock and Fensham 2018). These species were the focus of this Action Plan.

Subsequent to the 2018 assessment, a further eight imperilled species have been identified and included in this Action Plan. Conversely, experts highlighted taxonomic uncertainty for six 'category 5' orchid taxa along with the shrub *Banksia vincentia*, which have been excluded. For these species, taxonomic work is considered the highest-priority conservation action. Subspecies have not been included in the Action Plan, with the exception of *Epilobium brunnescens* subspecies *beagleholei*, which is the only subspecies of the taxon to occur in Australia (the other two occur in New Zealand). Three species – *Wikstroemia australis*, *Hibbertia tenuis* and *Prasophyllum murfetii* – have increased in abundance since 2016 due to management actions and, while still highly threatened and management-dependent, do not currently have severe ongoing declines across all subpopulations. *Acacia volubilis* has increased to >50 plants at one subpopulation following recent disturbance and although it remains highly threatened, no longer strictly meets the IUCN criteria for listing as Critically Endangered, and was not included in the Action Plan.

## 2.2 Compiling Action Plan profiles

The majority of this Action Plan comprises standardised accounts of the conservation status of Australia's most imperilled plants. Species profiles were compiled according to the data collated from 2016-17 by Silcock and Fensham (2018). Each profile was reviewed by relevant experts in 2020 to ensure the most current information was presented. The profile templates were adapted and modified from the Bird and Mammal Action Plans, and focused on presenting key IUCN thresholds and recovery actions. A summary and explanation of the information in the profiles is provided below.

### Overview

A brief summary of the key information about the taxon including current listing status (IUCN, EPBC Act and State/Territory) and re-assessment of IUCN status.

### Brief description

Short morphological description, including distinguishing features and reference to taxonomic authority.

### Distribution

Known current (black squares) and former (grey squares) occurrences of the taxon shown on map with bioregion/s of occurrence shaded (dark grey for bioregions where species currently occurs, light grey for bioregions where species formerly occurred) (DAWE 2012). We used Australasian Virtual Herbarium data, with all records checked to ensure they were natural occurrences (i.e. not cultivated) and correctly geo-located. In some cases, detailed survey data were accessed to provide more accurate distribution maps. Translocated subpopulations are shown on the map as triangles (black where plants are extant; hollow where plants persist but there has been no recruitment, are in very low numbers or have been in the ground for <5 years thus it is too early to assess long-term performance; grey where translocation has failed).

## Population estimate and trends

Current best estimates of subpopulation sizes and trends, including tenure of each subpopulation, were compiled. Where time-series monitoring data were available, these were tabulated. Translocated plants and subpopulations were shown in the tables, but did not contribute to IUCN assessments until they were considered self-sustaining. Translocations can sometimes show early signs of success, including recruitment in some instances, but can fail or remain strongly conservation-dependent after many years (Drayton and Primack 2012; Guerrant 2012; Jusaitis 2012). Here we define self-sustaining translocated subpopulations as having sufficient number of surviving plants to potentially establish a viable subpopulation (this differs depending on life history of the species, and is generally measured against naturally-occurring subpopulation abundance), and translocated plants having successfully recruited (IUCN 2019; Silcock *et al.* 2019). We also stipulate that translocated plants must have been in the ground for at least five years, and thus survived a wide range of seasonal conditions and threatening processes.

We have followed the IUCN (2019) usage of the terms 'population' and 'subpopulation'; wherein 'population' is defined as the total number of individuals (mature and other life stages) of a taxon throughout its distribution. Population size only considers the number of 'mature individuals' (see below). Even where the taxon exists in subpopulations that could be considered biologically or ecologically distinct populations, when assessed under the IUCN criteria, these are referred to as subpopulations and population refers to total numbers (IUCN 2019).

## Habitat and ecology

A summary of key information about habitat/s where the species grows, its biology and ecology.

## IUCN Red List assessment data

This section tabulates the conservation parameters of the taxon relevant to the IUCN (2019) criteria and trends in these parameters, along with a qualitative rating of the degree of confidence in the values assigned to those parameters (high, medium or low). Translocated subpopulations were included in IUCN assessments where the translocation was considered self-sustaining in the long-term (i.e. had a comparable number of individuals, health and fecundity to naturally occurring subpopulations, had been in the ground for at least five years, and had produced viable offspring; Silcock *et al.* 2019). Key terms are defined explicitly by IUCN (2019) and outlined below.

**Extent of Occurrence (EOO)** measures the spatial spread of the areas currently occupied by the taxon using a convex hull (IUCN 2019), generated via GeoCat (Bachman *et al.* 2011). Records used in this calculation included herbarium specimens and expert survey records held in State databases, which are referenced in each taxon profile. To derive a consistent measure across species and ensure the EOO reflected current distribution, records from 2000-2020 (20 year period) were included. Subpopulations known to be extinct were excluded, while extant subpopulations that only had pre-2000 records were included.

**Area of Occupancy (AOO)** is a scaled metric that represents the area of suitable habitat currently occupied by a taxon. It was also calculated in GeoCat (Bachman *et al.* 2011), which determines the number of 2 × 2 km raster grid cells in which there are recent (post-2000) records (except where local extinctions are known to have occurred), then multiplies this tally by four to derive an estimate in square kilometres. This may markedly over-estimate the actual area occupied by highly specialised and restricted plant species, and in this instance, an estimate of the 'Actual Area of Occupancy' is provided in brackets.

Under IUCN (2019) guidelines, if the EOO is less than AOO (due to the grid square calculation method), it is increased to equal the AOO value. This is because AOO is defined as the area occupied within the EOO (IUCN 2019). In these cases, the original (actual) EOO is specified in brackets.

**Number of mature individuals** is the total number of individuals known, estimated or inferred to be capable of reproduction (IUCN 2019). Where accurate estimates were not available, IUCN thresholds were used: <50, <250, <1000, <2500, <10 000 or >10 000 (IUCN 2019). Individuals that cannot produce new recruits (e.g. plants reproductively suppressed by myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) such that flower, fruit and seed production is extremely low and parent plants persist in greatly reduced densities with limited outcrossing probability) are not considered mature individuals. Reproducing units within a clone (i.e. ramets) are counted as separate 'mature individuals'. However, obtaining precise counts of clonal units is inherently challenging, and the most pragmatic approach was adopted (IUCN 2019). Translocated individuals must have been in the ground for at least five years and produced viable offspring (defined as offspring that have reached maturity or are likely to do so) before they are counted as mature individuals (IUCN 2019). Where there was any uncertainty or potentially differing interpretations, the method used to calculate mature individuals was justified.

Number of subpopulations is defined as the number of geographically and thus reproductively isolated occurrences with infrequent dispersal or genetic exchange between them (IUCN 2019; Keith 2000). In many cases, subpopulations were already delineated by species' experts in recovery plans, and these were adopted in the current Action Plan. However, there was often little information available on the dispersal capacity of a taxon. For species with highly mobile insect pollinators (e.g. *Eucalyptus dalveenica*) or bird-dispersed seed/fruit (e.g. *Rhodomyrtus psidioides*), subpopulations are likely to encompass a larger area and multiple distinct occurrences, when compared with taxa that have more limited seed-dispersal (e.g. *Grevillea caleyi*). In many cases (perhaps most pronounced in the heavily cleared Avon Wheatbelt of WA), species that previously comprised a single subpopulation have been fragmented into smaller subpopulations by land-use change, and we have assumed dispersal is limited between sites that now represent separate subpopulations.

**Number of locations:** a 'location' is defined as a geographically or ecologically distinct area in which a single threat could rapidly affect all individuals. While locations are typically guided by subpopulation occurrences, they may also comprise more than one subpopulation, or only part of a subpopulation. Where a taxon is affected by more than one threat, locations should be defined by considering the most serious plausible threat (IUCN 2019). The threat that determined the number of locations was shown in brackets in the IUCN Red List assessment data table in all profiles.

Where the main threatening process operates at a landscape scale, the number of locations is defined as the number of discrete management units applicable to the threatening process. The delineation of management units may relate to the ability of the species to disperse between areas affected by the threat, the capacity for the threat to transition between units, or areas where different management practices are utilised to mitigate the threat. Thus species threatened by the airborne pathogen myrtle rust, where all subpopulations occur within the climatic range of the pathogen, are assessed as a single location. Similarly, where climate change or drought is considered the major threat, all subpopulations are affected and considered a single location. By contrast, phytophthora (*Phytophthora* spp.) dieback is soil-borne and fronts may move gradually through an area of contiguous, susceptible vegetation. However, spread to an uninfested area separated by an ecological barrier (e.g. farmland or urbanisation) would require a specific transport vector. Such geographically-separated subpopulations would be considered multiple locations in relation to the threat of phytophthora.

For numerous imperilled species, long-term lack of recruitment is the main threatening process. In cases where this is due to landscape scale processes across the range of the species (e.g. long-term shifts in rainfall regime, or loss of pollinators or other essential ecosystem services), subpopulations are considered one location. If lack of recruitment is due to site-based factors, e.g. soil compaction or herbivory, or the reasons for lack of recruitment are not well-understood and potentially due to multiple factors, subpopulations are considered as separate locations.

**Generation length** is the average age of parents of the current cohort (i.e. newborn individuals in the population) (IUCN 2019). Generation length therefore reflects the turnover rate of breeding individuals in a population. Detailed demographic data are not available for most threatened plants, including length of reproductive period, survivorship and mortality. We have calculated generation length as:

$$\frac{\text{age at senescence} - \text{age at reproductive maturity}}{2}$$

These estimates are necessary as this time period is directly relevant to IUCN (2019) criteria, where declines are measured over 10 years or 3 generations, up to a maximum of 100 years, whichever is longer. Where no species-specific data were available, estimates were inferred based on closely-related members of the genus or recorded as 'unknown'.

**Extreme fluctuations** occur where population parameters (EOO, AOO, locations, subpopulations or number of mature individuals) vary widely, rapidly and frequently; typically where at least a 10-fold difference between the minima and maxima is evident (IUCN 2019). Criteria B and C include this sub-criterion to account for the positive relationship between variable population growth rates and extinction risk (Burgman *et al.* 2007). Extreme fluctuations vary in magnitude and frequency (which may be regular or sporadic), and occur over any timespan depending on the underlying cause. Short-term fluctuations that occur over seasonal or annual cycles are typically easier to detect than those that occur over longer timespans, such as those driven by rare events or climatic cycles such as *El Nino*.

If there is occasional dispersal between subpopulations, the degree of fluctuation should be measured over the entire population. Therefore, fluctuations within separate subpopulations that occur independently or asynchronously, are likely to become redundant when considered at the population scale. However, if the subpopulations are isolated (as for many plants), the degree of synchrony between the subpopulations is less important, and it is sufficient for the majority of subpopulations to undergo extreme fluctuations separately. If most of the subpopulations show fluctuations of an order of magnitude, the criterion would be met (regardless of the degree of fluctuations in total population size).

Assessors must be reasonably certain that fluctuations in the number of mature individuals represent changes in total population, rather than simply a flux of individuals between different life stages (IUCN 2019). For example, fires may stimulate mass recruitment from large persistent seedbanks when there were few mature individuals before the event. Mature plants may die out during the interval between fires, leaving a store of immature individuals (seeds) until they are stimulated to germinate by the next fire. Such cases do not fall within the definition of extreme fluctuations unless the seedbank can be exhausted by a single event or the species cannot persist without mature individuals. For example, serotinous obligate-seeders hold their seed in the canopy and the majority germinate after adults are killed by fire. Such species are prone to extreme fluctuations, as successive fires could cause a local extirpation if a second fire occurred before germinants reached reproductive maturity (IUCN 2019).

Detailed knowledge of seedbanks is lacking for many plants included in the Action Plan. Where there is assumed to be a persistent soil seedbank and/or fluctuations are not clearly evident in monitoring data (as is the case for the majority of Western Australian shrubs), we have assigned extreme fluctuations as 'not documented' with a 'medium' level of confidence. In cases where shrubs appear to be serotinous, extreme fluctuations are considered 'probable', also with a 'medium' confidence level. For short-lived forbs with extreme fluctuations documented and no evidence of long-lived seedbanks, e.g. *Ballantinia antipoda*, extreme fluctuations are accepted with a 'medium' level of confidence. Where there is evidence of a persistent seedbank, however, e.g. *Gentiana bredboensis*, extreme fluctuations are not considered likely because apparent fluctuations probably represent a flux of individuals between different life stages (IUCN 2019).

For ground orchids and other geophytes (e.g. *Solanum orgadophilum*), the number of flowering plants may vary greatly between years in response to environmental factors such as rainfall and time since fire or other disturbance. However, the number of mature individuals is likely to be relatively stable despite these apparent fluctuations, as many individuals would persist as non-flowering tubers or rhizomes below the ground. Thus extreme fluctuations are not likely to occur, and are considered 'not documented' with a 'medium' level of confidence.

**Severely fragmented** refers to the situation in which increased extinction risk to the taxon results from most of its individuals occurring in small and relatively isolated subpopulations. These small subpopulations may go extinct through demographic and genetic effects, with a reduced probability of recolonisation (IUCN 2019). Fragmentation can be 'natural' for species that are restricted to small patches of suitable habitat and have limited dispersal capacity, or can occur due to fragmentation of natural habitats.

A taxon can be considered severely fragmented if >50% of its total AOO is in habitat patches that are (1) smaller than would be required to support a viable population, and (2) separated from other habitat patches by a large distance (IUCN 2019). If the species naturally occurs in small disjunct patches (e.g. species that occur in isolated desert springs and many rainforest species), habitat patches are not considered smaller than would be required to support a viable population, thus subpopulations are not considered 'severely fragmented' under IUCN criteria.

**Continuing decline:** is a recent, current or projected future decline which is liable to continue unless recovery actions are taken (IUCN 2019). Declines can be observed, estimated, inferred or projected. Projected declines must be justified and there must be a high degree of certainty that they will take place – merely 'plausible' future declines are not allowed (IUCN 2019). Declines are estimated for three generations or 10 years, whichever is longer (up to a maximum of 100 years) (IUCN 2019).

### **Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria**

Assessment of the taxon's eligibility against IUCN Red List Criteria (IUCN 2019). For criteria A to E (Table 2), the taxon's eligibility is ranked as Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Data Deficient (DD) or Not Eligible, with a short justification provided.



Table 2. Summary of the five criteria (A-E) used to evaluate IUCN Red List status (IUCN 2019).

SUMMARY OF THE FIVE CRITERIA (A-E) USED TO EVALUATE IF A TAXON BELONGS IN AN IUCN RED LIST THREATENED CATEGORY (CRITICALLY ENDANGERED, ENDANGERED OR VULNERABLE).<sup>1</sup>

| A. Population size reduction. Population reduction (measured over the longer of 10 years or 3 generations) based on any of A1 to A4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Critically Endangered                                                    | Endangered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Vulnerable                                                               |
| A1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | ≥ 90%                                                                    | ≥ 70%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ≥ 50%                                                                    |
| A2, A3 & A4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | ≥ 80%                                                                    | ≥ 50%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ≥ 30%                                                                    |
| <p>A1 Population reduction observed, estimated, inferred, or suspected in the past where the causes of the reduction are clearly reversible AND understood AND have ceased.</p> <p>A2 Population reduction observed, estimated, inferred, or suspected in the past where the causes of reduction may not have ceased OR may not be understood OR may not be reversible.</p> <p>A3 Population reduction projected, inferred or suspected to be met in the future (up to a maximum of 100 years) [(a) cannot be used for A3].</p> <p>A4 An observed, estimated, inferred, projected or suspected population reduction where the time period must include both the past and the future (up to a max. of 100 years in future), and where the causes of reduction may not have ceased OR may not be understood OR may not be reversible.</p> |                                                                          | <p>(a) direct observation [except A3]</p> <p>(b) an index of abundance appropriate to the taxon</p> <p>(c) a decline in area of occupancy (AOO), extent of occurrence (EOO) and/or habitat quality</p> <p>(d) actual or potential levels of exploitation</p> <p>(e) effects of introduced taxa, hybridization, pathogens, pollutants, competitors or parasites.</p> |                                                                          |
| <i>based on any of the following:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |
| B. Geographic range in the form of either B1 (extent of occurrence) AND/OR B2 (area of occupancy)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Critically Endangered                                                    | Endangered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Vulnerable                                                               |
| B1. Extent of occurrence (EOO)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | < 100 km <sup>2</sup>                                                    | < 5,000 km <sup>2</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | < 20,000 km <sup>2</sup>                                                 |
| B2. Area of occupancy (AOO)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | < 10 km <sup>2</sup>                                                     | < 500 km <sup>2</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | < 2,000 km <sup>2</sup>                                                  |
| AND at least 2 of the following 3 conditions:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |
| (a) Severely fragmented OR Number of locations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | = 1                                                                      | ≤ 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | ≤ 10                                                                     |
| (b) Continuing decline observed, estimated, inferred or projected in any of: (i) extent of occurrence; (ii) area of occupancy; (iii) area, extent and/or quality of habitat; (iv) number of locations or subpopulations; (v) number of mature individuals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |
| (c) Extreme fluctuations in any of: (i) extent of occurrence; (ii) area of occupancy; (iii) number of locations or subpopulations; (iv) number of mature individuals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |
| C. Small population size and decline                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Critically Endangered                                                    | Endangered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Vulnerable                                                               |
| Number of mature individuals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | < 250                                                                    | < 2,500                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | < 10,000                                                                 |
| AND at least one of C1 or C2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |
| C1. An observed, estimated or projected continuing decline of at least (up to a max. of 100 years in future):                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 25% in 3 years or 1 generation (whichever is longer)                     | 20% in 5 years or 2 generations (whichever is longer)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 10% in 10 years or 3 generations (whichever is longer)                   |
| C2. An observed, estimated, projected or inferred continuing decline AND at least 1 of the following 3 conditions:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |
| (a) (i) Number of mature individuals in each subpopulation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | ≤ 50                                                                     | ≤ 250                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ≤ 1,000                                                                  |
| (ii) % of mature individuals in one subpopulation =                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 90–100%                                                                  | 95–100%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 100%                                                                     |
| (b) Extreme fluctuations in the number of mature individuals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |
| D. Very small or restricted population                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Critically Endangered                                                    | Endangered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Vulnerable                                                               |
| D. Number of mature individuals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | < 50                                                                     | < 250                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | D1. < 1,000                                                              |
| D2. Only applies to the VU category<br>Restricted area of occupancy or number of locations with a plausible future threat that could drive the taxon to CR or EX in a very short time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | -                                                                        | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | D2. typically:<br>AOO < 20 km <sup>2</sup> or<br>number of locations ≤ 5 |
| E. Quantitative Analysis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Critically Endangered                                                    | Endangered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Vulnerable                                                               |
| Indicating the probability of extinction in the wild to be:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | ≥ 50% in 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is longer (100 years max.) | ≥ 20% in 20 years or 5 generations, whichever is longer (100 years max.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | ≥ 10% in 100 years                                                       |

<sup>1</sup> Use of this summary sheet requires full understanding of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria and Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. Please refer to both documents for explanations of terms and concepts used here.

## Threats and threat impact

For each threat, the timing (past, ongoing or future; Table 3), its scope (proportion of the total population affected; Table 4) and severity (overall declines caused by the threat; Table 5) were adapted from the IUCN (2020) threat classification scheme to best represent threats to Australian plants. The timing, scope and severity of each threat were used to calculate a threat impact score (high, medium, low; Table 6). Where threat timing was 'past', the scope, severity and impact are not relevant to current or future conservation of the species. It is also difficult to assess threats retrospectively, so threat scope, severity and impact were not scored. If severity is considered negligible, impact is assessed as negligible. If scope and/or severity are unknown, the threat impact is also assessed as unknown.

**Table 3. Threat timing categories and scores (adapted from IUCN 2020).**

| Timing    | Explanation                                                                                                                                                      | Score            |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Past      | Threat affected species in the past but has now ceased and is considered unlikely to return                                                                      | n/a (not scored) |
| Ongoing   | Current and documented threat to species                                                                                                                         | 3                |
| Suspended | Operated in the past; now suspended but could return in the future (e.g. populations that are now fenced from herbivores but fence requires ongoing maintenance) | 2                |
| Future    | Considered possible that threat will impact population in future                                                                                                 | 1                |

**Table 4. Threat scope categories and scores (adapted from IUCN 2020).**

| Scope    | Explanation                                        | Score                |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Whole    | Affects >90% of population                         | 3                    |
| Majority | Affects 50-90% of population                       | 2                    |
| Minority | Affects <50% of population                         | 1                    |
| Unknown  | Insufficient information to assess scope of threat | Unknown (not scored) |

**Table 5. Threat severity categories and scores (adapted from IUCN 2020).**

| Severity   | Explanation                                                                                                                    | Score                |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Very rapid | Causing or likely to cause very rapid declines (>30% over 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is longer)                      | 3                    |
| Rapid      | Causing or likely to cause rapid declines (20-30% over 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is longer)                         | 2                    |
| Slow       | Causing or likely to cause relatively slow but significant declines (<20% over 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is longer) | 1                    |
| Negligible | Causing or likely to cause negligible or minor declines                                                                        | 0                    |
| Unknown    | Insufficient information to assess severity of threat                                                                          | Unknown (not scored) |

**Table 6. Final threat impact categories and scores (adapted from IUCN 2020) H, High; M, Medium; L, Low.**

|              | ONGOING THREATS<br>(score =3) |           |          | SUSPENDED THREATS<br>(score =2) |           |          | FUTURE THREATS<br>(score =1) |           |          |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|---------------------------------|-----------|----------|------------------------------|-----------|----------|
|              | Very rapid (3)                | Rapid (2) | Slow (1) | Very rapid (3)                  | Rapid (2) | Slow (1) | Very rapid (3)               | Rapid (2) | Slow (1) |
| Whole (3)    | H                             | H         | M        | H                               | M         | M        | M                            | M         | L        |
| Majority (2) | H                             | M         | M        | M                               | M         | L        | M                            | M         | L        |
| Minority (1) | M                             | M         | L        | M                               | L         | L        | L                            | L         | L        |

## Current management

Current management of the taxon and its habitat is summarised, including whether there is a past or current recovery plan or other program or strategy, whether it occurs on land managed for conservation, and specific actions that are being undertaken for individual subpopulations.

## Information required

Outlines the information required to address key knowledge gaps relating to the taxon, the specific actions required to gather this information, and the priority of these actions.

## Management actions required

Outlines management required to ensure the taxon's persistence and facilitate its recovery, and the priority of these actions.

## Experts consulted

Draft profiles were circulated to at least one and preferably multiple (where available), expert(s) for review.

# 3. Imperilled species: overview, threats and conservation assessments

## 3.1 Lifeforms, regions and habitats

More than two-thirds of imperilled species are long-lived trees and shrubs, eight are ground orchids, seven are perennial forbs (including one fern) and two are annual forbs. Imperilled species are concentrated where centres of endemism (Crisp *et al.* 2001) correspond with highly-modified agricultural and urban landscapes: the east, south-east and south-west of the continent (Figure 1). Imperilled species come from only 26 of Australia's 89 bioregions. Western Australia accounts for 14 species, all from the heavily-cleared and high-endemism Southwest Australian Floristic Region (Hopper and Gioia 2004), particularly the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion where six imperilled species occur.

Twelve species are endemic to Victoria (including two that previously occurred in other States where they are now considered extinct). While half of these occur in heavily-cleared bioregions such as the Southern Volcanic Plain, South East Coastal Plain and Riverina, the other six are narrow-range mountain endemics that face a variety of intensifying threats. Thirteen species occur in New South Wales and 11 in Queensland (including five found in both States). Eight of these occur in South Eastern Queensland, where historic and ongoing land clearing for agriculture and urbanisation has been exacerbated by the recent arrival of myrtle rust. Tasmania has three species, and South Australia two (Figure 1).

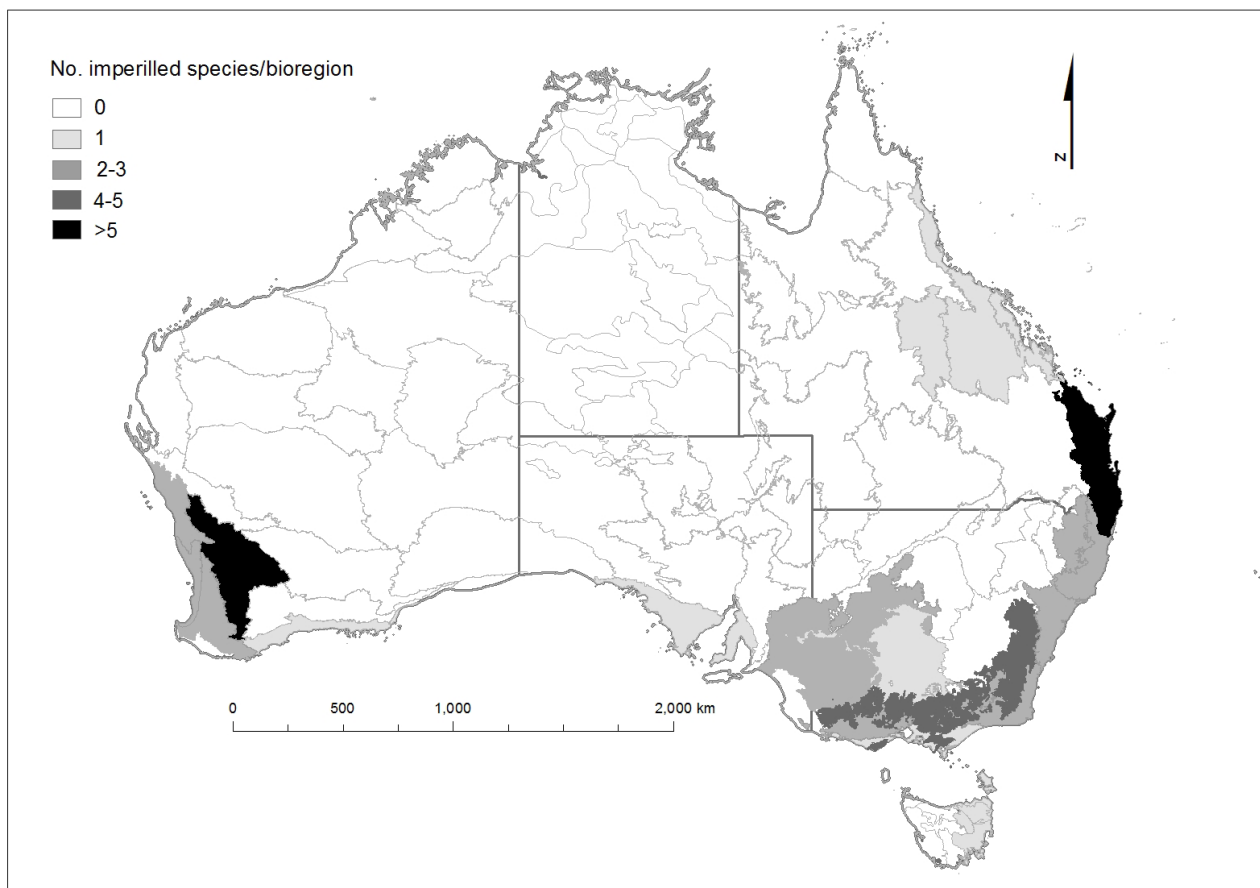


Figure 1. Number of imperilled species by biogeographic region (DAWE 2012), Australia.

Australia's drier regions are far less modified than more arable and populous regions, and adaptations of the flora to drought have conferred some resilience to introduced herbivores (Silcock *et al.* 2014). While there are numerous dryland shrubs and trees with limited or no recruitment, and some restricted species are at long-term risk of extinction as older plants senesce (Auld *et al.* 2015; Denham and Auld 2004), none were considered imperilled. The only imperilled arid zone species was the Great Artesian Basin spring endemic *Eriocaulon aloefolium*, which is restricted to a single spring wetland in central Queensland, is threatened by feral pigs and has poorly-understood disturbance requirements. Despite the large number of listed threatened species in bioregions with high endemism such as the Wet Tropics, these areas are less modified and have no imperilled taxa. Although Queensland's Brigalow Belt is highly modified, it has relatively few endemic species and thus fewer that are imperilled (Fensham *et al.* 2018).

Five habitat types spanning multiple regions harbour the highest numbers of imperilled taxa. Southern Australian heathlands and shrublands from Victoria to south-western Australia have been extensively cleared for agriculture. Many endemic species are now restricted to small fragmented remnants, and these account for 17 imperilled species. Although mountainous habitats are less impacted by land clearing and fragmentation and support many narrow-range endemics that are not declining (Silcock and Fensham 2017), 13 imperilled species occur in these habitats. The restricted distributions of these species, which are often confined to a single mountain peak or outcrop, renders them extremely vulnerable to local impacts (Burgman *et al.* 2007).

Wetlands often bear the brunt of changes in agricultural and urban landscapes. These ecosystems have been extensively cleared, had their hydrology altered, been sown to pasture species, and subjected to concentrated grazing pressure and weed invasion, and are now particularly vulnerable to the projected impacts of climate change (Burgin *et al.* 2016; Casanova and Powling 2014; Powell *et al.* 2015). Where endemic or restricted species occur in highly-modified wetlands they are often at risk of extinction, and eight such species are considered imperilled.

The temperate and subtropical fertile tussock grasslands and grassy woodlands of eastern and southern Australia have been extensively cleared for agriculture since European colonisation. Small, fragmented remnants now comprise Critically Endangered and Endangered Ecological Communities in Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland (Morgan *et al.* 2017). These remnants are mostly on roadsides, rail lines and in tiny reserves that are subject to a variety of interacting threats. Eight highly restricted species are considered imperilled in these habitats. Six species occur in subtropical rainforests of eastern Australia, and five are imperilled due to the introduced pathogen myrtle rust.

## 3.2 Threats

Ongoing habitat loss is a high impact threat for six imperilled species. However, 60% of Australia's imperilled plants have suffered historical declines due to habitat clearance and now survive as fragmented subpopulations in small patches of remnant vegetation. These remnants are typically not managed for conservation, often occur in road and rail corridors, and are inherently vulnerable to further loss and degradation from infrastructure maintenance, weed invasion, edge effects (e.g. eutrophication, spray drift), high herbivore densities and human activities. In many cases ecological processes, particularly those driving recruitment (e.g. fire, pollinator activity), have been disrupted.

Many remnant shrub subpopulations are comprised of mature individuals with limited recruitment due to lack of fire or other disturbance, often exacerbated by herbivory and/or competition from weeds and native vegetation. Limited recruitment is a critical threat for 20 imperilled species. This represents an 'extinction debt' that will play out in the absence of active disturbance management as older plants senesce (Kuussaari *et al.* 2009). Moreover, some species may have fallen below a minimum viable population size for long-term persistence (Bulman *et al.* 2007; Traill *et al.* 2010). The period over which this extinction debt will be realised may be many decades, depending on life histories of plants involved and the size and condition of their remnant habitat (Guardiola *et al.* 2013; Koyanagi *et al.* 2017). Recent taxonomic work on ground orchids has described many new and highly restricted species, many of which now occur in small fragmented subpopulations sometimes numbering only a few plants (Swartz and Dixon 2009).

The other 40% of imperilled species occur in less heavily-modified habitats, mostly mountain ranges and upland rainforest. The threats to these species are species- and site-specific, and include infrastructure maintenance, native herbivores, insect borers, mites, and introduced pathogens. Declines of naturally-restricted species tend to be better documented than for those that are widespread, but causes of decline are not always understood. Most taxa are characterised by low recruitment and poor understanding of their seedbank ecology. Increased frequency, severity and changed season of wildfires is a major threat to species in some habitats, for example the Stirling Range in south-western Australia. The future impacts of climate change are also poorly understood, but for geographically restricted species are often predicted to be severe, particularly in concert with other threats (Auld and Leishman 2015; Petitpierre *et al.* 2016). Herbivores (domestic, feral and native) are a listed threat to many species, however, are only classified as a high impact threat (Table 6; IUCN 2020) for two imperilled species.



Two plant diseases are at the forefront of conservation concerns in Australia, and are directly responsible for the imperilled status of 10 species. The threat from phytophthora *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, a soilborne water mould pathogen that destroys the roots of infected plants, is well documented (Cahill *et al.* 2008; Shearer *et al.* 2007), particularly in the Eastern Stirling Range Montane Heath Community where numerous endemic taxa are threatened with extinction (Barrett and Yates 2015). Phytophthora has also been documented in forests of Victoria (Reiter *et al.* 2004; Weste 2003) and New South Wales (McDougall *et al.* 2003), and is responsible for continuing declines in five imperilled species, often in conjunction with other threats.

Myrtle rust, a plant disease caused by the introduced fungal pathogen *Austropuccinia psidii*, was first detected in New South Wales in 2010 and has now been observed on 382 (17%) of the 2253 native Myrtaceous taxa (Makinson *et al.* 2020). The impacts of myrtle rust are most pronounced in Australia's east coast rainforest flora, and vary from restricted leaf lesions to impaired fecundity (infection of growing shoots, flowers, fruit and seeds) and plant death (Makinson *et al.* 2020). Some restricted and already threatened species are extremely susceptible to infection including the naturally rare *Gossia gonoclada* and the undescribed *Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range (P.R.Sharpe+4877). Even more-widespread species such as *Gossia hillii*, *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* and *Rhodamnia maideniana* face sharp extinction trajectories due to severe impacts across their range (Fensham *et al.* 2020). Emerging research indicates myrtle rust is likely to interact with other ecological processes and threats (e.g. drought, fire, weed invasion) to exacerbate species declines in the future (Fernandez-Winzer *et al.* 2020a; Fernandez-Winzer *et al.* 2020b; Makinson *et al.* 2020; Pegg *et al.* 2017).

Climate change, specifically long-term drying trends, is ranked as a high impact threat to five imperilled species, and a potential future threat for many species mainly through decreasing winter rainfall trends in southern Australia, increased temperatures and drying in alpine areas.

### 3.3 Conservation assessments

All 50 species included in the Action Plan meet IUCN (2019) criteria for listing as Critically Endangered. The majority were eligible for listing as CR under criterion B (45 species) and criterion C (40 species). Thirty-one species were eligible for listing as CR under criterion D, meaning that they are known from <50 mature individuals (seven of these are known from <10). Fourteen species were eligible under criterion A, involving a quantified sharp decline. Only one species, *Grevillea caleyi*, had extinction probability quantified; all others were assessed as Data Deficient under criterion E.

Only six species had an EOO greater than 100 km<sup>2</sup>, while 32 had an AOO <10 km<sup>2</sup>. Thirty-three species are known from a single location, and all except four from <5 locations. All species had continuing declines observed, estimated, inferred and/or projected, with the exception of *Eucalyptus ornans*, which has a dramatic, quantified population reduction observed in the recent past. Despite a decline from 70 to 10 mature individuals, the population of *E. ornans* is now considered relatively stable. The distributions of 38 species were considered severely fragmented, while extreme fluctuations (IUCN 2019) were considered likely or possible for only four species.

Conservation listings often underpin funding priorities as well as providing a level of protection from land clearing. Unfortunately, there is substantial misalignment between State and Federal listings, and erroneous or inconsistent listings under IUCN criteria, for the majority of imperilled species. Only 10 of the 50 species are listed as Critically Endangered under both Federal and State legislation. Twelve have consistent listings between jurisdictions, but are listed at lower categories than they are eligible for (i.e. Endangered or Vulnerable instead of Critically Endangered). The remaining 28 species listings are misaligned between jurisdictions, including 12 that are not currently listed as being of conservation concern under the EPBC Act. These findings underscore the value and urgency of the ongoing CAM process, which seeks to align listings under IUCN criteria.

**Table 7. Summary of imperilled species and their IUCN assessment data. Note that all species meet IUCN criteria for listing as CR, and this is not shown in the Table. For some species, there are no high impact threats and reasons for decline are poorly understood or declines are being driven by multiple interacting medium-impact threats.**

| Taxon                                                   | Family           | State    | EOO (km <sup>2</sup> ) | AOO (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Locations | Mature* individuals | Continuing decline   | High impact threat/s                                                                                       | EPBC Act | State status |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| <i>Acacia leptoneura</i>                                | Fabaceae         | WA       | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 2                   | Observed & projected | Lack of recruitment/lack of disturbance; roadside impacts; low genetic diversity                           | CR       | CR           |
| <i>Acacia pharangites</i>                               | Fabaceae         | WA       | 8                      | 8                      | 1         | 13                  | Observed & projected | Lack of recruitment/lack of disturbance                                                                    | EN       | CR           |
| <i>Antrophyum austro-queenslandicum</i>                 | Pteridaceae      | QLD; NSW | 8                      | 8                      | 1         | 39                  | Observed             | Drought/climate change                                                                                     | CR       | EX           |
| <i>Ballantinia antipoda</i>                             | Brassicaceae     | VIC      | 20                     | 20                     | 1         | 22,381              | Observed & projected | None                                                                                                       | EN       | EN           |
| <i>Banksia fuscobracteata</i>                           | Proteaceae       | WA       | 4                      | 4                      | 2         | 43                  | Observed & projected | Infrastructure maintenance; extractive industries                                                          | CR       | CR           |
| <i>Banksia montana</i>                                  | Proteaceae       | WA       | 12                     | 12                     | 2         | 0                   | Observed & projected | Introduced pathogens (Phytophthora); too-frequent fire                                                     | EN       | CR           |
| <i>Borya mirabilis</i>                                  | Boryaceae        | VIC      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 70                  | Observed & projected | Inappropriate disturbance regimes; low genetic diversity; introduced pathogens (Phytophthora); competition | EN       | EN           |
| <i>Caladenia amoena</i>                                 | Orchidaceae      | VIC      | 8                      | 8                      | 3         | <50                 | Observed & projected | Climate change                                                                                             | EN       | EN           |
| <i>Caladenia busselliana</i>                            | Orchidaceae      | WA       | 13                     | 12                     | 3         | <50                 | Observed & projected | Lack of recruitment; human activity                                                                        | EN       | CR           |
| <i>Caladenia luteola</i>                                | Orchidaceae      | WA       | 26                     | 8                      | 2         | 127                 | Observed & projected | Lack of recruitment                                                                                        | CR       | CR           |
| <i>Caladenia pumila</i>                                 | Orchidaceae      | VIC      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 2                   | Observed & projected | Lack of recruitment; low genetic diversity                                                                 | CR       | EN           |
| <i>Calochilus richiae</i>                               | Orchidaceae      | VIC      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | <10                 | Observed & projected | Illegal collection/human trampling                                                                         | EN       | EN           |
| <i>Commersonia erythrogyna</i>                          | Malvaceae        | WA       | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 0                   | Observed & projected | Lack of recruitment/inappropriate fire regimes; climate change                                             | EN       | CR           |
| <i>Daviesia bursarioides</i>                            | Fabaceae         | WA       | 74                     | 20                     | 6         | 44                  | Observed & projected | Lack of recruitment/inappropriate fire regimes                                                             | EN       | CR           |
| <i>Daviesia cunderdin</i>                               | Fabaceae         | WA       | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 13                  | Observed & projected | Lack of recruitment/inappropriate fire regimes; drought; infrastructure maintenance; rabbits               | EN       | CR           |
| <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> subsp. <i>beaugleholei</i> | Onagraceae       | VIC      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | <50                 | Observed & projected | None                                                                                                       | VU       | VU           |
| <i>Eremophila pinnatifida</i>                           | Scrophulariaceae | WA       | 74                     | 16                     | 6         | 19                  | Observed & projected | Lack of recruitment/inappropriate fire regimes                                                             | EN       | CR           |

| Taxon                                                  | Family           | State    | EOO (km <sup>2</sup> ) | AOO (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Locations | Mature* individuals | Continuing decline   | High impact threat/s                                                                | EPBC Act   | State status |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| <i>Eremophila subangustifolia</i>                      | Scrophulariaceae | WA       | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 81                  | Observed & projected | Lack of recruitment/inappropriate fire regimes                                      | CR         | CR           |
| <i>Eriocaulon aloefolium</i>                           | Eriocaulaceae    | QLD      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 1,588               | Projected            | Feral herbivores                                                                    | Not listed | EN           |
| <i>Eucalyptus dalveenica</i>                           | Myrtaceae        | QLD      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 244+                | Inferred & projected | Habitat loss                                                                        | Not listed | CR           |
| <i>Eucalyptus imlayensis</i>                           | Myrtaceae        | NSW      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 80                  | Observed             | Dieback (unknown cause); lack of recruitment                                        | EN         | CR           |
| <i>Eucalyptus morrisbyi</i>                            | Myrtaceae        | TAS      | 45                     | 8                      | 1         | 43                  | Observed & projected | Climate change; grazing/browsing; insect defoliation.                               | EN         | EN           |
| <i>Eucalyptus ornans</i>                               | Myrtaceae        | VIC      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 10                  | Not documented       | Flooding                                                                            | Not listed | EN           |
| <i>Gentiana bredboensis</i>                            | Gentianaceae     | NSW      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | <300                | Observed & projected | Competition/lack of fire; feral herbivores                                          | CR         | CR           |
| <i>Gossia gonoclada</i>                                | Myrtaceae        | QLD      | 193                    | 48                     | 3         | <50                 | Observed & projected | Introduced pathogens (myrtle rust); low genetic diversity; lack of recruitment      | EN         | EN           |
| <i>Gossia hillii</i>                                   | Myrtaceae        | QLD; NSW | 265600                 | 592                    | 1         | <50                 | Observed & estimated | Introduced pathogens (myrtle rust)                                                  | Not listed | Not listed   |
| <i>Grevillea caleyi</i>                                | Proteaceae       | NSW      | 56                     | 56                     | 3         | <3,000              | Observed & projected | Habitat loss; inappropriate fire regimes; seed predation                            | EN         | CR           |
| <i>Grevillea calliantha</i>                            | Proteaceae       | WA       | 24                     | 24                     | 6         | 27                  | Observed & projected | Lack of recruitment/inappropriate fire regimes                                      | EN         | CR           |
| <i>Grevillea hodgei</i>                                | Proteaceae       | QLD      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | <250                | Observed & projected | Hybridisation                                                                       | Not listed | CR           |
| <i>Grevillea</i> sp. Gillingarra (R.J. Cranfield 4087) | Proteaceae       | WA       | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 21                  | Observed & projected | Infrastructure maintenance                                                          | CR         | CR           |
| <i>Hibbertia circinata</i>                             | Dilleniaceae     | NSW      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | <250                | Inferred & projected | Introduced pathogens (phytophthora)                                                 | Not listed | CR           |
| <i>Kelleria bogongensis</i>                            | Thymelaeaceae    | VIC      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | <500                | Observed & projected | Feral vertebrate pests (horses)                                                     | VU         | EN           |
| <i>Lenwebbia</i> sp. (Main Range P.R. Sharpe+4877)     | Myrtaceae        | QLD; NSW | 2049                   | 44                     | 1         | <50                 | Observed & estimated | Introduced pathogens (myrtle rust)                                                  | Not listed | CR           |
| <i>Petrophile latericola</i>                           | Proteaceae       | WA       | 16                     | 16                     | 5         | 171                 | Observed & projected | Inappropriate fire regimes/lack of recruitment; introduced pathogens (Phytophthora) | EN         | CR           |
| <i>Phebalium daviesii</i>                              | Rutaceae         | TAS      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 25                  | Observed & projected | Domestic stock; lack of recruitment                                                 | CR         | EN           |
| <i>Pimelea cremnophila</i>                             | Thymelaeaceae    | NSW      | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | <100                | Observed             | Lack of recruitment; vertebrate pests (introduced and native)                       | Not listed | CR           |

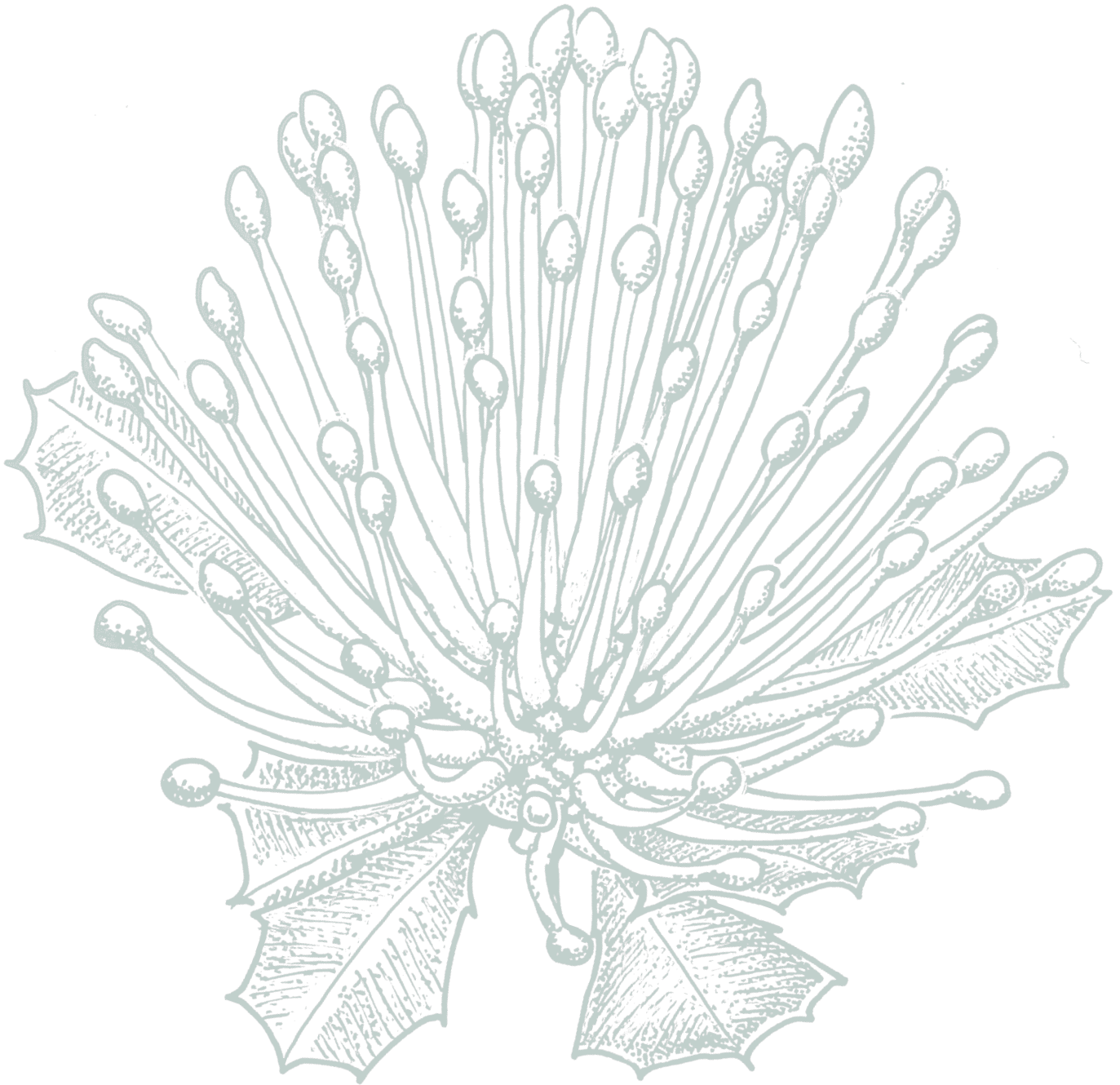
| Taxon                                               | Family        | State                      | EOO (km <sup>2</sup> ) | AOO (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Locations | Mature* individuals | Continuing decline   | High impact threat/s                                                        | EPBC Act   | State status |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| <i>Pimelea venosa</i>                               | Thymelaeaceae | NSW                        | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 0                   | Observed             | None                                                                        | EN         | EN           |
| <i>Pomaderris delicata</i>                          | Rhamnaceae    | NSW                        | 19                     | 8                      | 2         | <100                | Observed & projected | Infrastructure maintenance                                                  | CR         | CR           |
| <i>Prasophyllum correctum</i>                       | Orchidaceae   | VIC                        | 8                      | 8                      | 1         | <15                 | Observed & projected | Inappropriate disturbance regimes/competition; lack of recruitment          | EN         | EN           |
| <i>Prasophyllum laxum</i>                           | Orchidaceae   | SA                         | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | <50                 | Observed             | None                                                                        | CR         | CR           |
| <i>Prasophyllum tunbridgense</i>                    | Orchidaceae   | TAS                        | 65                     | 16                     | 3         | <50                 | Projected            | Habitat loss                                                                | EN         | EN           |
| <i>Pultenaea</i> sp.<br>Genowlan Point (NSW 417813) | Fabaceae      | NSW                        | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 40                  | Observed             | Inappropriate fire regimes/lack of recruitment                              | CR         | CR           |
| <i>Rhodamnia maideniana</i>                         | Myrtaceae     | QLD;<br>NSW                | <100                   | <50                    | 1         | <50                 | Observed & projected | Introduced pathogens (myrtle rust)                                          | Not listed | CR           |
| <i>Rhodomyrtus psidioides</i>                       | Myrtaceae     | QLD;<br>NSW                | <100                   | <50                    | 1         | <50                 | Observed & estimated | Introduced pathogens (myrtle rust)                                          | CR         | CR           |
| <i>Senecio behrianus</i>                            | Asteraceae    | VIC;<br>SA (X);<br>NSW (X) | 13459                  | 22                     | 4         | <250                | Observed & projected | Habitat loss; altered hydrology                                             | EN         | EN           |
| <i>Solanum orgadophilum</i>                         | Solanaceae    | QLD                        | 8                      | 8                      | 3         | <5,000              | Observed & projected | Habitat loss; infrastructure maintenance; inappropriate disturbance regimes | Not listed | CR           |
| <i>Sphaerolobium acanthos</i>                       | Fabaceae      | VIC                        | 30                     | 16                     | 4         | <70                 | Observed & projected | Vertebrate pests (feral goat, deer); infrastructure maintenance             | CR         | Rare         |
| <i>Spyridium fontis-woodii</i>                      | Rhamnaceae    | SA                         | 4                      | 4                      | 1         | 13                  | Observed & projected | Inappropriate disturbance regimes/ lack of recruitment                      | Not listed | EN           |
| <i>Spyridium furculentum</i>                        | Rhamnaceae    | VIC                        | 12                     | 12                     | 1         | <250                | Observed & projected | Introduced pathogens (Phytophthora); drought/climate change                 | EN         | EN           |
| <i>Zieria exsul</i>                                 | Rutaceae      | QLD                        | 130                    | 24                     | 4         | <250                | Projected            | Habitat loss; infrastructure maintenance                                    | Not listed | CR           |

\* Translocated individuals are not included unless the translocated subpopulation is considered self-sustaining (IUCN 2019).



## 4. Imperilled species profiles

This section presents accounts for the 50 Australian plant taxa identified as imperilled. Profiles are ordered alphabetically. Explanations and definitions for all fields are provided in Chapter 2.



## *Acacia leptoneura* Benth. [FABACEAE] Slender-nerved acacia



*Acacia leptoneura* (clockwise from top left) flower buds, globular inflorescences, grading occurring immediately adjacent to one of two extant plants in narrow remnant, and growth habit (images: Joel Collins).

### Overview

*Acacia leptoneura* is currently known from two individuals. One occurs on a very narrow road verge adjacent to cropping land and the other in a slightly larger patch of degraded remnant vegetation. Recovery options are limited as propagation has been unsuccessful and the genetic diversity is probably very low.

### Conservation status

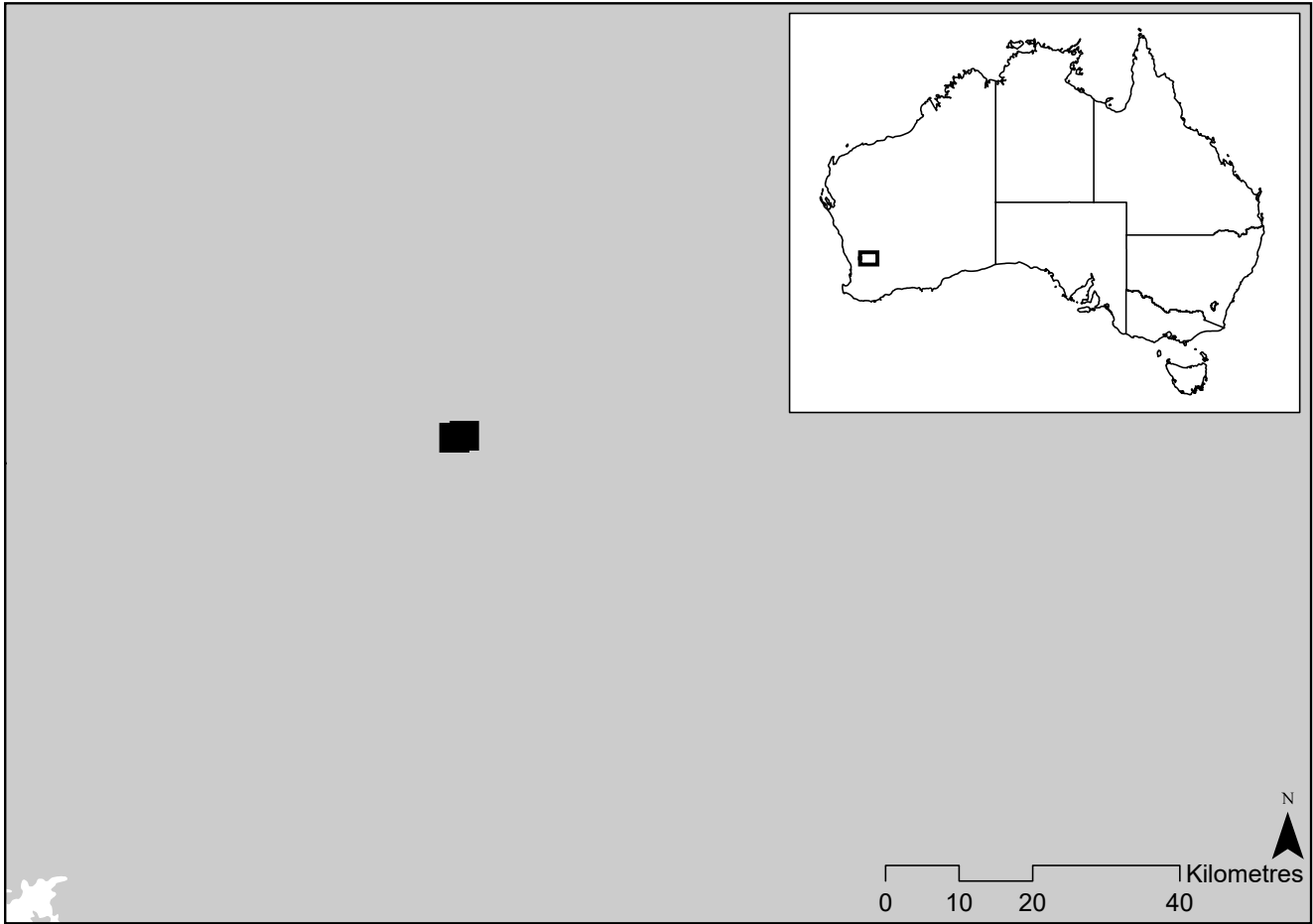
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Prostrate, spreading shrub 0.6 m high and 2.2 m wide with terete, strigose branchlets covered in straight, closely-appressed hairs (Maslin 2001). Phyllodes are circular in cross section, 3-7.5 cm long and 1 mm wide with 16 slightly raised nerves and appressed hairs at the base. Inflorescence a globular head of 20-30 flowers, occurring singly or in pairs, ca. 5 mm wide, on stalks 4-6 mm long (Maslin 2001). *Acacia leptoneura* is similar to *A. subflexuosa*, but has 16-nerved phyllodes rather than 8-nerved phyllodes, and a glabrous ovary rather than one covered with appressed-puberulous hairs (Cowan and Maslin 1999).

## Distribution

*Acacia leptoneura* is known from two sites separated by 1 km in a very restricted area northeast of Dowerin in the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion of south-western Western Australia (Department of the Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020).



Current distribution of *Acacia leptoneura* (black squares) in the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion (shaded grey) in south-western Western Australia (DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Acacia leptoneura* is currently known from two mature individuals. There are very few historical collections of the species, indicating it was probably always rare (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020). The type specimen of *A. leptoneura* was collected by J. Drummond (unnumbered) before 1838 from the Swan River colony area, and described by Bentham in 1842 (Maslin 2001). At the time, Drummond lived on a property called Hawthornden, located a few km north of Toodyay near Bolgart (B Maslin pers.comm. 2020). Although no precise locality for the original collection is given, it was probably made in an area of sandplain country called the Guangan, near Bolgart, which has since been cleared extensively for agriculture (B Maslin pers.comm. 2020). In 1839, Drummond recollected the species (assigned the number '303'), probably from the same individual or location as the type specimen (B Maslin pers.comm. 2020).

*Acacia leptoneura* was known only from the historical Drummond collections until a single individual was located in 2008 (Department of Environment and Conservation 2012). Another individual was located in 2010, raising the population size to two individuals 1 km apart (DEC 2012). The species occurs at one location given the range of threats that simultaneously affect both plants, and could rapidly cause the species' extinction.

Extensive targeted searches of road and nature reserves in the Dowerin, Amery and Bolgart areas have been undertaken without success (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2015). The species was also not located during previous flora surveys within several nature reserves in the Dowerin region, plus private property in the Wattenguttin area (TSSC 2015). No recruitment has been observed.



*Acacia leptoneura* monitoring data, 2008-2019 (DBCA 2020).

| Subpopulation (tenure) | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                | Trend      |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 (road reserve)       | 2008: 1 (0)<br>2009: 1 (0)<br>2010: 1 (0)<br>2016: 1 (0)<br>2019: 1 (0) | Decreasing |
| 2 (private property)   | 2010: 1 (0)<br>2016: 1 (0)<br>2019: 1 (0)                               | Decreasing |

## Habitat and ecology

*Acacia leptoneura* occurs on grey to brown sandy loams over laterite with calcareous white rock nearby (AVH 2020; DEC 2012). The species grows amongst degraded shrubland of *Hakea scoparia*, *Melaleuca* sp. and *Santalum acuminatum* (Subpopulation 1) and open mallee with *Eucalyptus leptopoda*, *Allocasuarina acutivalvis*, *A. campestris*, *Eremaea xcodonocarpa*, *M. sclerophylla* and *Hypocalymma angustifolium* (Subpopulation 2; AVH 2020; DEC 2012). Flowers have been observed in August, with fruit maturing in November and December.

Based on the ecology of *A. subflexuosa*, *A. leptoneura* may live for 10-15 years and is a disturbance opportunist (DEC 2012; TSSC 2015). Like other species in the genus, it is probable that fire kills adult plants but stimulates germination of soil-stored seed. Seedbank dynamics are poorly-understood. Soil-stored seed is probably not exhaustible by a single event, and therefore extreme fluctuations cannot be confirmed (IUCN 2019). It is also possible the species may re-sprout after fire (B Maslin pers.comm. 2020).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                   | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (<1 km <sup>2</sup> )    | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.004 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (all threats)                            | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 2                                          | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 2                                          | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| Generation length             | 5 years                                    | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                             | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                        | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                     | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                                               |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; continuing decline projected in AOO, EOO and number of locations; and continuing decline observed in quality of habitat and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                                              |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                                 | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                                       | n/a      | n/a      | n/a           | The majority of <i>A. leptoneura</i> habitat has been cleared for agriculture, with <6% of bushland remaining in the Central Wheatbelt (Wheatbelt NRM 2015). Remaining habitat is severely fragmented, with 94% of habitat patches <10 ha (WNRM 2015). The two <i>A. leptoneura</i> plants occur in very small patches of degraded vegetation.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Lack of recruitment<br><i>Ongoing</i>                             | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | The species has been known from only two individuals since it was relocated in 2008. No recruitment has been observed and all attempts to germinate seed <i>ex situ</i> have been unsuccessful. Fire or disturbance is probably fundamental for germination of soil-stored seed. Despite prolific flowering, very few pods have been observed on the species (wild plants and herbarium specimens), indicating that outcrossing, which is severely limited by the existence of two plants, is required for seed production (B Maslin pers.comm. 2020). |
| Road maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | Subpopulation 1 occurs on a narrow road verge and Subpopulation 2 occurs in a small patch of remnant vegetation surrounded by roads. At both sites the species is vulnerable to road maintenance activities including grading, herbicide drift, drainage channel construction, slashing and road realignment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Small population size/<br>low genetic diversity<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | Given the species is known from two individuals, the genetic diversity is likely to be below that required to maintain a viable population. The two individuals are vulnerable to genetic effects such as inbreeding depression, and stochastic events such as prolonged drought.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Introduced herbivores<br><i>Ongoing</i>                           | Majority | Unknown  | Unknown       | Herbivory and ground disturbance by rabbits, and domestic stock grazing, was a past threat to Subpopulation 2, which has now been fenced. Subpopulation 1 remains unfenced and vulnerable to herbivores, however impacts on the plants are not well-documented.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                  | Whole    | Unknown  | Unknown       | Invasive weeds (especially perennial grasses) have been documented at both subpopulations, but impacts are not well-documented.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified in an interim recovery plan (DEC 2012).
- The species does not occur in any conservation reserves. Local landholders are aware of the species and their conservation obligations to protect it.
- Subpopulation 2 has been fenced for many years in partnership with Greening Australia.
- Seed was collected (590) from the single roadside individual in 2012 (A Crawford pers.comm. 2020). In 2015, 100 seeds were collected from this plant and 560 from the nearby plant in remnant bushland (A Crawford pers. comm. 2020). Seed germination trials have been undertaken under controlled conditions, however all have been unsuccessful. Translocation options are very limited (D Jolliffe pers.comm. 2016).
- Targeted surveys have been conducted in several possible refuges for the species.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Protect known/potential habitat in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Determine mechanisms for recruitment of soil-stored seed and/or *ex situ* seed germination to facilitate augmentation of subpopulations and translocation to sites of secure tenure.

### Information required

| Theme                                          | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Priority                       |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Population surveys                             | Monitor response of subpopulations to threats and management actions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | High                           |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations     | Continue research into <i>ex situ</i> propagation methods.<br>If an appropriate reserve of viable seed or cuttings is obtained, investigate methods for translocation or augmentation of naturally occurring subpopulations.                                                                                                                                              | High<br>High                   |
| Genetic diversity                              | Undertake research to better understand the genetic diversity of the species.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | High                           |
| Lack of recruitment/inappropriate fire regimes | Undertake research to better understand the recruitment requirements of the species.<br>Undertake research into seed viability, including the pollination mechanism and longevity of soil-stored seed.<br>Determine the role of disturbance including fire (smoke/heat) in seed germination.<br>Identify an optimal fire regime to increase the abundance of the species. | High<br>High<br>High<br>Medium |

### Management actions required

| Theme                                          | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Priority     |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Lack of recruitment/inappropriate fire regimes | Trial planned burn nearby extant individuals of <i>A. leptoneura</i> to determine whether this will trigger natural regeneration.<br>If successful, strategically expand area where planned burns are applied ensuring mature individuals are not burnt.                                                                      | High         |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations     | Collect seed and propagate plants from extant individuals and new recruits (if burn trial successful) with view to reinforce natural subpopulations.<br>When feasible, reinforce wild subpopulations with propagated individuals to increase population abundance, and implement translocations into secure suitable habitat. | High<br>High |
| Habitat protection                             | Protect known habitat of the species on private land in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | High         |
| Grazing                                        | Continue to exclude herbivores from Subpopulation 2, and investigate options for excluding herbivores from Subpopulation 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                   | High         |
| Invasive weeds                                 | Manage any invasive weeds within the subpopulations and habitat of the species, particularly after disturbance.                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Medium       |
| Extension and awareness                        | Maintain engagement with relevant landholders that are custodians of the species. Raise awareness with other stakeholders in the area in an attempt to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                                      | Medium       |



## Experts consulted

Bree Phillips, Andrew Crawford, Tanya Llorens and Bruce Maslin.

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# *Acacia pharangites* Maslin [FABACEAE]

## Wongan gully wattle



*Acacia pharangites* (clockwise from top left) inflorescences, habitat at Wongan Katta (Wongan Hills; images: Joel Collins) and seedpods (image: Andrew Crawford).

### Overview

*Acacia pharangites* is known from two subpopulations at Wongan Katta (Wongan Hills) in the Avon Wheatbelt and has undergone a recent decline as mature individuals senesce in the absence of recruitment. Recruitment has been observed following a small burn and localised flooding, indicating the species depends on disturbance for population maintenance. The main subpopulation occurs on private land where implementation of suitable fire regimes is limited due to the inaccessible habitat and lack of firebreaks.

### Conservation status

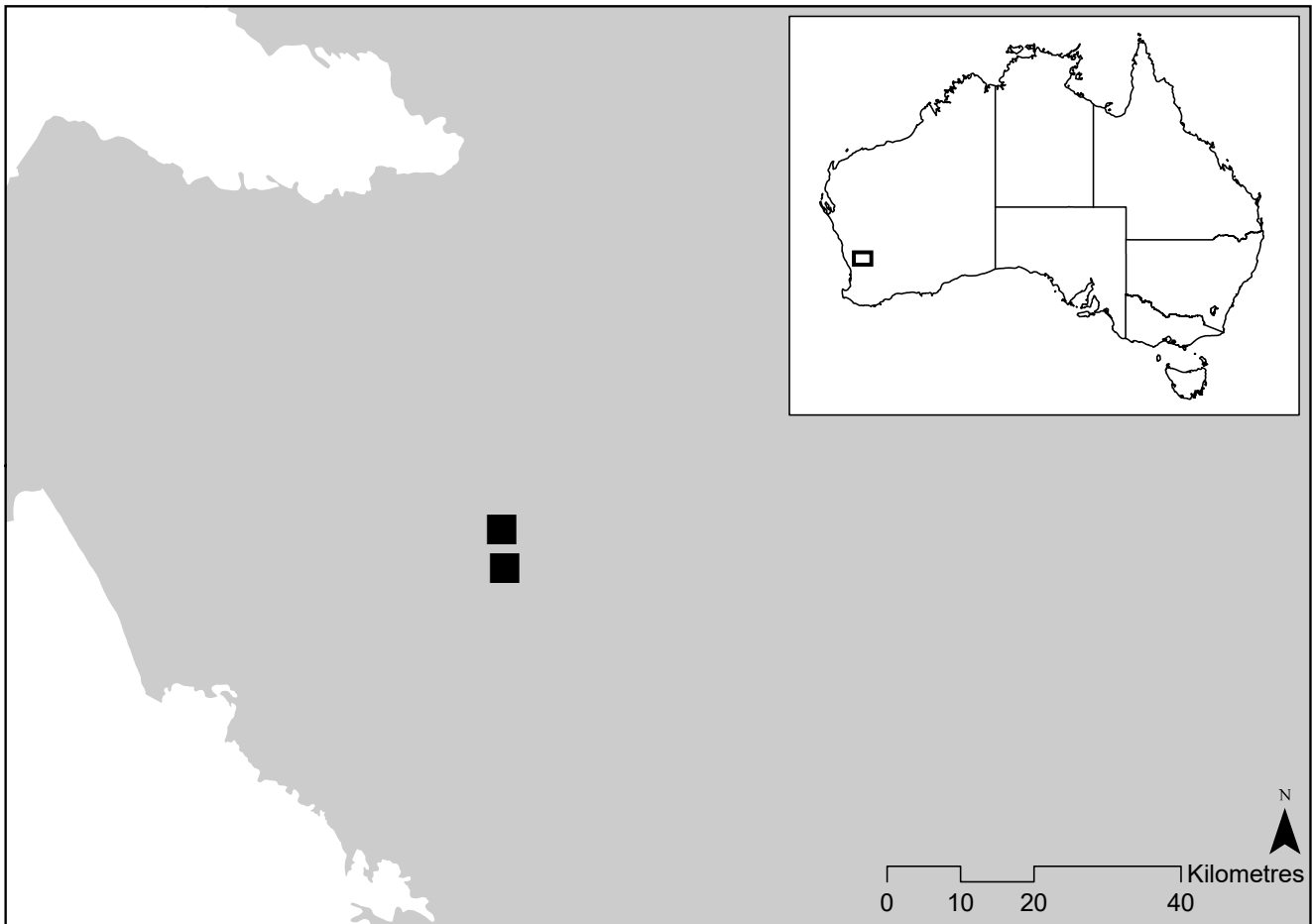
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Spindly, erect shrub to 4 m high with slightly rough grey bark (Maslin 1982). Branches have a thick, waxy and powdery coating towards the ends and raised stem projections/scars where phyllodes have fallen. Phyllodes are erect, straight to shallowly-curved, circular in cross-section, 15-40 mm long and 1 mm wide. Inflorescences comprise 1-2 reduced racemes with approximately 25 golden flowers. Fruit are linear hairless pods to 7 cm that are strongly raised over the seeds (Maslin 1982).

## Distribution

*Acacia pharangites* is known from a very narrow range near Wongan Katta (Wongan Hills) within the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion of south-western Western Australia (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012).



Current distribution of *Acacia pharangites* (black squares) in the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion (shaded grey) of south-western Western Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Acacia pharangites* is currently known from two subpopulations. The species was first collected in 1976, and comprised 329 individuals when surveyed in 1980 and 333 in 1988 (AVH 2020; Department of Environment and Conservation 2009). In 1992, only 11 plants were recorded, increasing to 137 in 2001 and declining to eight in 2019 (DBCA 2020). A separate smaller subpopulation of 26 plants was found in 2005, but only five plants were recorded in 2015 (DBCA 2020; DEC 2009). Targeted surveys in surrounding areas have not located additional subpopulations.

*Acacia pharangites* monitoring data, 1980-2019 (DBCA 2020).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                            | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                                         | Trend      |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1* Wongan Katta (Wongan Hills) (private property) | 1980: 329<br>1988: 333<br>1992: 11<br>1997: 20<br>1999: 36<br>2000: 107<br>2001: 137 (1)<br>2004: 44<br>2007: 23<br>2019: 8 (31) | Decreasing |
| 2 Wongan Hills Nature Reserve (nature reserve)    | 2005: 26<br>2013: 11<br>2014: 7<br>2015: 5                                                                                       | Decreasing |

\*Includes four sites.

## Habitat and ecology

*Acacia pharangites* occurs on highly restricted greenstone-derived soils at Wongan Katta (Wongan Hills). The main subpopulation occurs in a sheltered gully along a seasonally dry creek, while the smaller subpopulation occurs on a ridgetop (B Phillips pers.comm. 2019). Associated species include *A. acuminata*, *A. congesta*, *Allocasuarina campestris*, *Calothamnus quadrifidus* subsp. *asper* and *Melaleuca radula*. Flowering occurs between August and November.

*Acacia pharangites* relies on disturbance to stimulate germination of soil-stored seed, with recruitment recorded after fire and flooding (B Phillips pers.comm. 2019). Subpopulations are typically even-aged cohorts approaching senescence without juvenile plants, although in more open habitat, juvenile plants have been recorded around a dead adult (A Crawford pers.comm. 2020). At one subpopulation, fire stimulated germination of four sown seeds, but soil-stored seed did not respond, indicating that it may not remain viable over long periods (B Phillips pers.comm. 2019).

The population abundance of *A. pharangites* fluctuates between life stages as the persistent seedbank germinates *en masse* following disturbance, and the single-aged cohorts eventually reach senescence and die. However, the seedbank is probably not exhaustible by a single event, and therefore extreme fluctuations cannot be confirmed (IUCN 2019). Longevity of the species is unknown, but individuals may live for up to 10 years based on monitoring data, and therefore generation length is likely <5 years.

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                  | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 8 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.9 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 8 km <sup>2</sup> (0.5 km <sup>2</sup> )  | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 2 (lack of disturbance)                   | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                    | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 2                                         | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                    | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 13                                        | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| Generation length             | <5 years                                  | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                            | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                       | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                    | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                                |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; continuing decline projected in AOO, EOO and number of locations; and continuing decline observed in quality of habitat and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                               |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                            |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                   | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                         | n/a      | n/a        | n/a           | Approximately 95% of vegetation has been cleared for agriculture within the species' distribution (DEC 2009). The species is considered severely fragmented as all subpopulations are small and occur in isolated remnants.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Lack of disturbance (fire, flood)<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | Recruitment is stimulated by disturbance (has been observed following fire and flooding) and is currently insufficient to maintain population abundance. The population declined from 333 in 1988 to 13 mature individuals by 2019 as mature individuals senesced. Fire is difficult to implement as there are no robust firebreaks to contain fire spreading into farmland. <i>Acacia pharangites</i> occurs at two locations when assessed against this threat as delineated by land tenure, which determines fire management. |
| Domestic stock grazing<br><i>Ongoing</i>            | Majority | Negligible | Negligible    | One subpopulation occurs on private property and grazing has been observed, although the impact of this threat has not been quantified (DEC 2009). Monitoring of seedlings indicated that grazing does not limit seedling growth post-recruitment (B Phillips pers.comm. 2019).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Seed predation<br><i>Ongoing</i>                    | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | Seed predation has been observed, although the impact of this threat has not been quantified (DEC 2009).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (DEC 2009).
- One subpopulation is protected in Wongan Hills Nature Reserve while the other is on private grazing land.
- Seed has been collected and held by the Western Australian Seed Centre.
- The species forms part of the living collection at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, with 27 plants from seven clones (nine plants in the Conservation Garden and 18 in the nursery collection).
- Recruitment trials have been undertaken, indicating fire stimulates recruitment, although germination occurred from sown seed rather than seed naturally occurring in the seedbank (B Phillips pers.comm. 2019). Seedlings were not impacted by grazing after germination, indicating grazing does not limit post-recruitment growth (B Phillips pers.comm. 2019). A prescribed burn is planned at the nature reserve population within the next 5 years.

- Seedlings have been caged at multiple sites to protect against grazing with ongoing monitoring.
- Juvenile plants are being monitored to determine the time to reproductive maturity (B Phillips pers.comm. 2019).
- Engagement with relevant landholders has been undertaken to ensure obligations to protect the species are understood.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Detect more subpopulations through targeted surveys.
- Protect known/potential habitat in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Increase and maintain population abundance at both sites via a fire management plan, with controlled burns at suitable intervals and intensities to stimulate seedling recruitment.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Priority       |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and fire ecology. The length of time soil-stored seed can remain viable is of particular relevance. | High           |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Identify sites of suitable habitat with secure tenure for establishing translocated populations.                                                                                                                                                                                              | High           |
| Population surveys                         | Monitor response of subpopulations to threats and management actions.<br>Undertake targeted surveys in other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations, particularly after disturbance.                                                                                            | High<br>Medium |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                           | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Priority     |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Habitat protection                              | Protect habitat of the species on private land in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | High         |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations      | Propagate individuals in an <i>ex situ</i> collection to support future translocation efforts. Ensure collection represents maximum range of genetic diversity possible.<br>Augment wild subpopulations with propagated individuals to increase population abundance, and implement translocations to secure suitable habitat. | High<br>High |
| Lack of recruitment/ inappropriate fire regimes | Implement and maintain a fire management strategy to promote recruitment at both subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | High         |
| Grazing                                         | Reduce grazing pressure by domestic stock/ native herbivores via fencing or other suitable methods, particularly after disturbance.                                                                                                                                                                                            | Medium       |
| Invasive weeds                                  | Manage any invasive weeds within the subpopulations and habitat of the species, particularly after disturbance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Medium       |
| Extension and awareness                         | Maintain engagement with relevant landholders that are custodians of the species. Raise awareness with other stakeholders in the area in an attempt to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                                       | Medium       |



## Experts consulted

Bree Phillips, Andrew Crawford and Tanya Llorens.

## References

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## *Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum* D.L.Jones [PTERIDACEAE] Border ranges lined fern, Lamington ox tongue fern



*Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum*, showing the diagnostic sporangia pattern along the lateral veins of fronds (image: Lui Weber).

### Overview

*Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum* was considered extinct until it was relocated in 2015. The species is cryptic, but appears to have very specific habitat requirements that have been useful in locating two additional subpopulations. However, additional intensive searches indicate the species and its habitat are exceedingly rare. If the threat of illegal collection can be controlled, the species would benefit from re-introduction to its type locality at Yerralahla (Blue Pool) in Woonoongoora (Lamington National Park).

### Conservation status

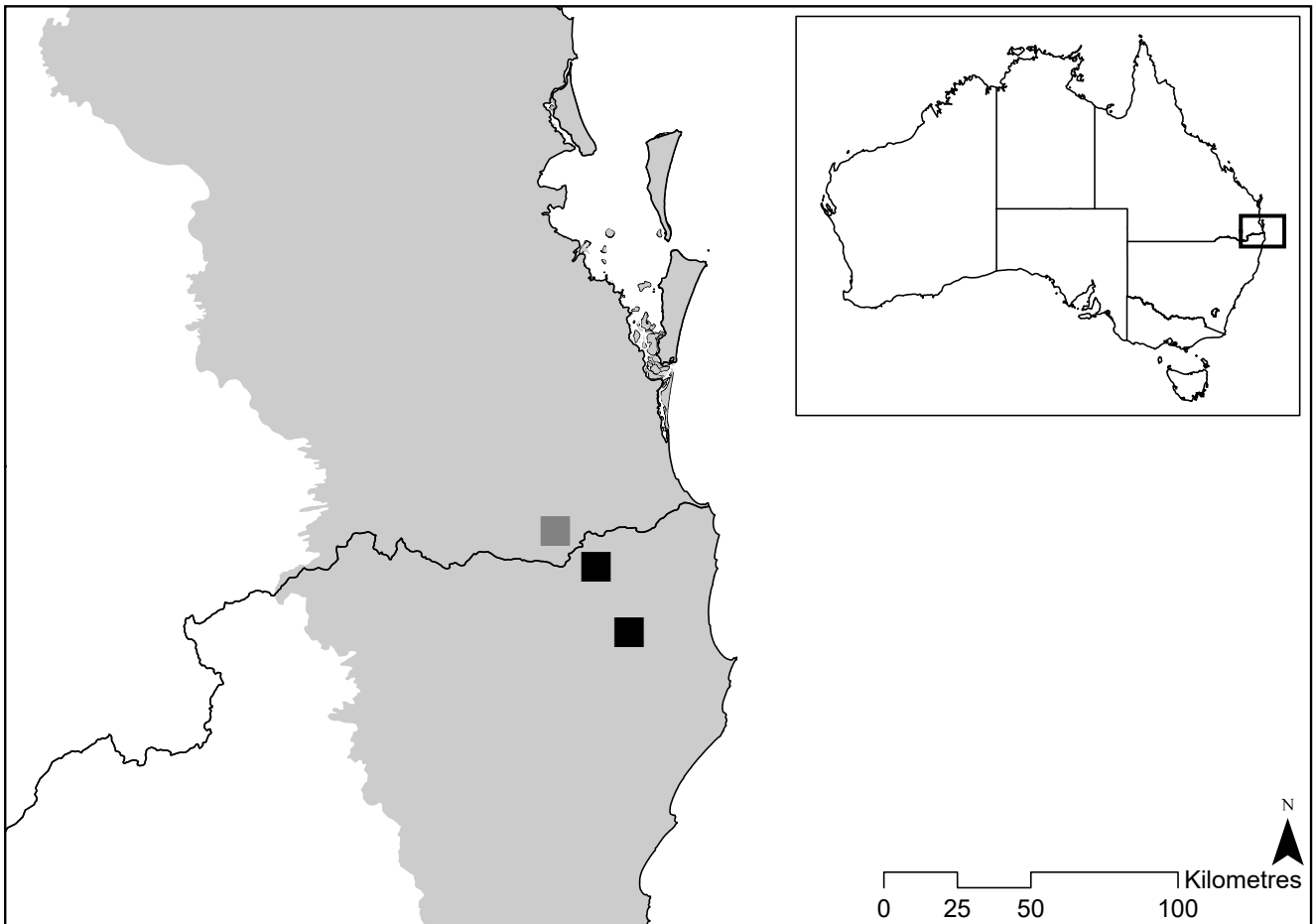
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)</i>                      | Not listed                         |
| <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)</i>                            | Extinct in the Wild                |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Epiphytic or lithophytic fern with small fronds that have a prominent, narrow winged stripe 2-7 cm long (Jones 1998). Short sori occur on the lateral veins (Jones 1998). The oblanceolate shape of the fronds, lacking lobes, and the diagnostic sporangia pattern following veins on the underside of fertile adult fronds are distinctive and mean that the species is unlikely to be confused with other ferns (L Weber pers.comm. 2016). This species is the only sub-tropical member of the genus.

## Distribution

*Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum* is known from a very narrow range near Tyalgum, Woonoongoora (Lamington National Park) and the Nightcap Range in the South Eastern Queensland bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Queensland Herbarium 2020; L Weber pers. comm. 2020).



Current (black squares) and historic (grey square) distribution of *Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum* in the South Eastern Queensland bioregion (shaded grey) of Queensland and New South Wales (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; QH 2020; L Weber pers.comm. 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum* is currently known from ca. 47 mature individuals over three sites. In 1983, less than 5 individuals were recorded growing on rocks at Yerralahla (Blue Pool) in Woonoongoora (Lamington National Park) (AVH 2020; Queensland Herbarium 2020). Most of these are thought to have been collected by fern enthusiasts, with the last known plant dying *in situ* (P Bostock pers.comm. 2019). Despite searching, no additional plants were found and it was listed as Extinct under Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act 1992* in 2006.

In 2015, 65 individuals were recorded on a single boulder 8.5 km away at Tyalgum (NSW), on freehold land under a conservation agreement. Only 34 individuals remain, with juveniles accounting for most of the losses (L Weber pers. comm. 2020). Targeted surveys revealed another subpopulation of eight individuals in 2017, and five more were located 2 km away on private property in 2019 (L Weber pers.comm. 2020). The species is cryptic and habitat can be remote, indicating additional subpopulations probably occur. However, the absence of the species even within suitable habitat (which is also uncommon) indicates *A. austroqueenslandicum* is extremely rare (L Weber pers. comm. 2020).

*Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum* monitoring data, 2015-2019 (L Weber and J Mallee, unpublished data; QH 2020).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                      | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                             | Trend            |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Yerralahla (Blue Pool)<br>(national park) | 1986: present<br>2006: 0<br>2019: 0                                                                                  | Presumed extinct |
| 2 Tyalgum (private property)                | 2015: 55 (incl. juveniles)<br>2016: 65 (incl. juveniles)<br>2018: 46 (incl. juveniles)<br>2020: 34 (most are mature) | Decreasing       |
| 3 Mt Jerusalem<br>(national park)           | 2017: 8 (20 mid-aged + 30 juveniles)<br>2019: 8 (20 mid-aged + 30 juveniles)<br>2020: 8 (7 mid-aged)                 | Decreasing       |
| 4 Nightcap Range<br>(private property)      | 2019: 5<br>2020: 5                                                                                                   | Unknown          |

## Habitat and ecology

*Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum* occurs on naturally restricted andesite boulders in lowland subtropical rainforest (L Weber pers.comm. 2019). Associated species include *Asplenium australasicum*, *A. harmanii*, *Psilotum nudum* and *Microsorium scandens*. *Antrophyum austroqueenslandicum* apparently requires a highly-specific micro-climate of sunlight, moisture and nutrients (L Weber pers.comm. 2019). The species grows in areas with high humidity; adjacent to streams, gullies or springs, with one record as a tree epiphyte (L Weber pers.comm. 2019; P Bostock pers. comm. 2020). The absence of *A. austroqueenslandicum* in many areas of apparently suitable habitat may be due to inundation by floodwater, which is known to dislodge and kill plants (L Weber pers.comm. 2019).

As with other ferns, *A. austroqueenslandicum* has a sporophyte and gametophyte generation, but the generation length is unknown. It is possible the gametophyte stage can persist in the absence of mature individuals, but duration is unknown. Spores of most ferns are desiccation resistant (e.g. Lopez-Pozo *et al.* 2019), and therefore extreme fluctuations are not likely. Moisture is required for fertilisation and dispersal, with the very small spores dispersed long distances by wind and water. Although naturally fragmented in small subpopulations, the species has highly dispersive spores and occurs in relatively intact habitat so is not considered severely fragmented (IUCN 2019).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                    | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 21 km <sup>2</sup>                          | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 12 km <sup>2</sup> (0.001 km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 47                                          | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (drought/climate change)                  | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Stable                                      | Medium      |
| No. of subpopulations         | 3                                           | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Stable                                      | Medium      |
| Generation length             | Unknown                                     | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                              | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | No                                          | Medium      |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                      | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                  |
| B1ab(i-v)      | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; and continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, area, extent and quality of habitat, number of locations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                 |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                              |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                            | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                  | n/a      | n/a        | n/a           | Habitat conversion due to agriculture has caused changes to hydrology and promoted the spread of invasive weeds that negatively impact the fine-scale habitat niche of this species.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Illegal collection<br><i>Suspended</i>       | Majority | Very rapid | Medium        | Illegal collection from Yerralahla (Blue Pool) is thought to be responsible for the species' local extinction at this site. Considering the rarity of the species, all subpopulations remain vulnerable to this threat, although there is no evidence that collection is currently occurring, and two subpopulations occur on private property.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Drought/climate change<br><i>Ongoing</i>     | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | Forty-three individuals were lost due to drought from 2019-2020, mostly juveniles (L Weber pers.comm. 2020). A fire burnt within 30 m of the subpopulation in Mt Jerusalem NP in 2019 (L Weber pers.comm. 2020). Given the species' highly specific microclimate requirements, climate change is considered a threat to all subpopulations simultaneously (one location) if it results in a reduction in annual average rainfall, more extreme droughts, more extreme fire weather and/or extreme flood events. Extreme rainfall, drought and fire weather are projected to increase with high certainty in the region over the next 100 years (Dowdy <i>et al.</i> 2015). |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Majority | Rapid      | Medium        | The Tyalgum subpopulation occurs near a roadside and is vulnerable to road widening and associated maintenance activities. The subpopulation located in Mt Jerusalem NP is vulnerable to herbicide drift associated with infrastructure maintenance (L Weber pers.comm. 2019).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>             | Majority | Rapid      | Medium        | Weeds, especially lantana invade the habitat of <i>A. austroqueenslandicum</i> and alter the micro-climate required by the species by shading and altering fuel loads and thus fire regimes (L Weber pers.comm. 2019). Invasive weeds are an important threat for the subpopulation at Nightcap Range (L Weber pers.comm. 2019).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Stochastic events<br><i>Ongoing</i>          | Whole    | Rapid      | Medium        | This species occurs along watercourses and therefore may be adversely affected by random flooding events. Individuals have been lost during flood events (L Weber pers. comm. 2019).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Current management

- There is no recovery plan for this species.
- This species is protected within Mt Jerusalem NP and on private land managed for conservation at Tyalgum.
- There is ongoing weed management and monitoring by the landholders at the Tyalgum subpopulation (L Weber pers.comm. 2019).

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Reduce the collective impacts of threatening processes on the species.
- Detect more subpopulations through targeted surveys.
- Increase the number of subpopulations in the wild via translocation into suitable habitat and reintroduction to the type locality.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including genetic diversity, disturbance responses, reproductive requirements and habitat requirements. Information regarding habitat requirements will be informative for managing extant subpopulations and guiding translocation efforts. | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Undertake research to determine propagation and germination methods.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | High     |
|                                            | Establish a genetically representative conservation collection, with view to propagate individuals for ongoing translocation program (if feasible).                                                                                                                                                                              | High     |
|                                            | Undertake surveys to identify potential suitable habitat for translocations into secure tenure.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | High     |
| Population surveys                         | Monitor known subpopulations to determine trends in response to recovery actions and threats.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | High     |
|                                            | Undertake targeted surveys within suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Medium   |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                    | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Trial propagation to establish a genetically-representative <i>ex situ</i> collection.                                                              | High     |
|                                            | Propagate sufficient individuals to augment extant subpopulations and undertake translocations.                                                     | High     |
|                                            | Plan and implement translocation program to re-establish population at Yerralahla (Blue Pool) and other suitable habitat within the species' range. | High     |
| Habitat protection                         | Protect known habitat on private land in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                                       | High     |
| Invasive weeds                             | Manage invasive weeds at known subpopulations in conjunction with private landholders and National Park rangers.                                    | High     |
| Extension and awareness                    | Establish/ maintain engagement with private landholders where the species occurs to ensure management activities are appropriate for the species.   | High     |
|                                            | Raise awareness of the species with relevant stakeholders in an attempt to find more subpopulations.                                                | High     |



## Experts consulted

Lui Weber, Justin Mallee, Peter Bostock and Gavin Phillips.

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## *Ballantinia antipoda* (F. Muell.) E.A. Shaw [BRASSICACEAE] Southern shepherds purse, southern ballantine, ballantine



*Ballantinia antipoda* flowers and foliage (left; image: Neville Walsh) and forming mats in shallow soils on Leanganook (Mt Alexander; right; image: Paul Foreman).

### Overview

*Ballantinia antipoda* is a monotypic endemic historically known from numerous locations in Victoria and a single subpopulation in Tasmania. The species is now presumed extinct in Tasmania and restricted to Leanganook (Mt Alexander) in central Victoria. This cryptic plant undergoes extreme population fluctuations in response to seasonal conditions, but the number of subpopulations continues to decline and its range is contracting. Reasons for decline are not well-understood, but the species occurs in a highly disturbed area with a predicted drying trend under climate change.

### Conservation status

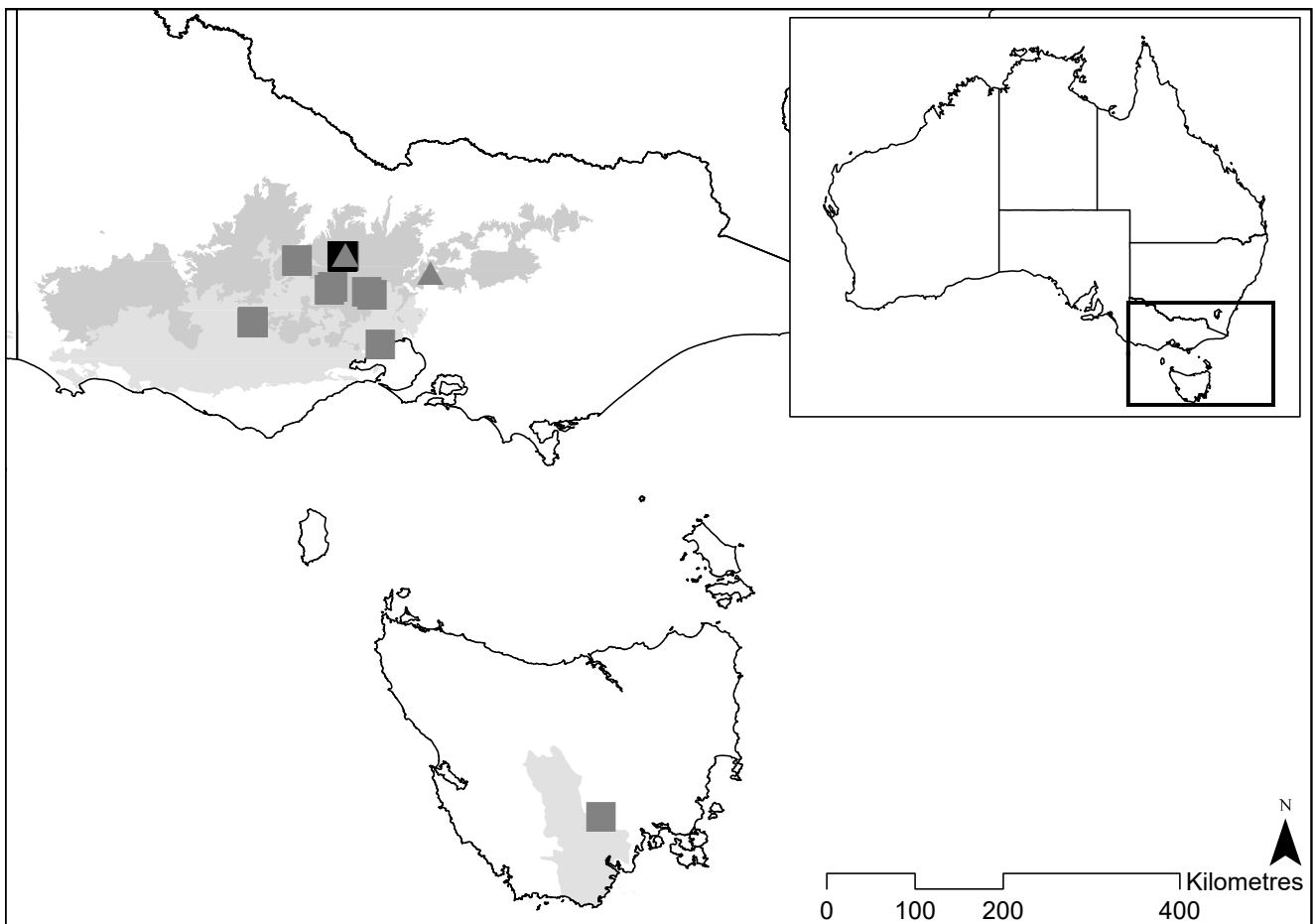
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)</i>                      | Threatened                         |
| Advisory list of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria               | Endangered                         |
| <i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (Tas)</i>                  | Extinct                            |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Cryptic, prostrate annual herb to 10 cm with sparsely-hairy stems that arise from a rosette of spoon-shaped basal leaves (Hewson 1982). Leaves along stem are dentate or entire (Hewson 1982). White flowers occur on stalks 5-10 mm long arranged in racemes or corymbs. Sepals to 1 mm long and petals to 2 mm long. Fruit elliptical and 3-5 mm long, with ellipsoidal, compressed seeds 1 mm long (Hewson 1982). *Ballantinia antipoda* is the only species in its genus.

### Distribution

*Ballantinia antipoda* historically occurred in the Southern Volcanic Plain and Victorian Midlands bioregions of Victoria, with two records from the 1840s in the Tasmanian Southern Ranges bioregion (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2020; Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020). The species is now absent across much of its former range and is restricted to Leanganook (Mt Alexander) in the Victorian Midlands of central Victoria.



Current (black square) and historical (grey squares) distribution of *Ballantinia antipoda* in the Victorian Midlands (shaded dark grey) and Southern Volcanic Plain (shaded light grey) bioregions of Victoria, and the Tasmanian Southern Ranges bioregion (shaded light grey) in Tasmania (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DELWP 2020). Translocations have been undertaken but have been unsuccessful (grey triangles; Silcock *et al.* 2019).

## Population estimate and trends

*Ballantinia antipoda* was presumed extinct until 1983, when 19 sites were located at Leanganook (Mt Alexander) (Nevill and Camilleri 2010). The species is currently known from 10 subpopulations at this site (P Foreman pers.comm. 2020). *Ballantinia antipoda* forms mats and these 'patches' are considered a more meaningful estimate of abundance rather than the number of individuals. The most current population estimate is 22 381 mature individuals over 104 discrete patches (Foreman 2014). This has decreased from an estimated 57 000 in 2013, but increased from 11 500 in 2011 (Foreman 2014). Despite these year to year fluctuations that are linked to winter rainfall, the number of sites has exhibited an overall decline since 1983. This decline is caused by a range of threats that are simultaneously affecting all subpopulations despite localised management, and therefore the species occurs at one location. Augmentations were undertaken at two sites at Leanganook (Mt Alexander) and the species was introduced to Tallarook State Forest, but all were unsuccessful in the long-term (Silcock *et al.* 2019).

Monitoring has been sporadic since the species was relocated, but has become more systematic with the implementation of a recovery plan (Nevill and Camilleri 2010). The first complete census was undertaken in 2011 (and subsequently 2013 and 2014) and identified a number of significant and previously undocumented subpopulations. One of these occurred on private property adjoining the regional park (Foreman 2014). The persistence of the species here appeared tenuous, where it has been absent since 2014 and is presumed extinct (P Foreman pers.comm. 2020). Additional targeted searches of suitable habitat in the Leanganook (Mt Alexander) region have failed to locate additional subpopulations.

Formal monitoring has not been undertaken since 2014. However, recent observations from incidental visitation indicate the larger, higher-elevation sites are stable, while the smaller, lower-elevation sites are vulnerable to altered hydrology and competition.

## Habitat and ecology

Historically, *B. antipoda* was known from dry stony sites and streambanks (Tasmania) and moss mats in the granite mountains of the Victorian Volcanic Plain. Some records also suggest the species occurred on basalt rocks, possibly on 'stony rises' with water seepage (Learmonth 2015).

Currently, *B. antipoda* occurs as a component of moss mats dominated by *Breutelia affinis* in skeletal soils over outcropping granite (Neville and Camilleri 2010). Associated species include *Bartramia papillata*, *Rosulabryum billardierei*, *Campylopus introflexus*, *Grimmia pulvinata* and *Polytrichum juniperinum* (Neville and Camilleri 2010). Aspect, micro-hydrology and disturbance are important components of habitat suitability (Foreman 2011). At higher altitudes (>525 m) *B. antipoda* occurs in sheltered areas with continuous cool-season seepage (Foreman 2011). At lower altitudes, competition seems to be important, as the species becomes less common amongst robust grasses.

*Ballantinia antipoda* is a short-lived species with a generation length of <12 months. It germinates in winter and flowers appear by September, which are thought to be insect pollinated. As the moss mats begin drying, the wind-dispersed seed matures and accumulates in the skeletal soils amongst the dry moss (Learmonth 2015). Although some seed appears to persist in the seedbank beyond 12 months, the majority germinates following autumn and winter rains (Foreman 2011). There are some areas where the seedbank appears to have been exhausted, leading to local extirpations that cause extreme fluctuations in population abundance and area of habitat occupied.

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                  | Reliability         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 20 km <sup>2</sup> (5.2 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High                |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High                |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 20 km <sup>2</sup> (0.6 km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium              |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High                |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (all threats)                           | High                |
| Trend                         | Stable                                    | High                |
| No. of subpopulations         | 10                                        | Medium (fluctuates) |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High                |
| No. of mature individuals     | 22 381                                    | Medium (fluctuates) |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High                |
| Generation length             | <1 year                                   | High                |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Documented                                | Medium              |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                       | High                |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                    | High                |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion  | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A               | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| B1ab(i-v)c(i-v) | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; continuing decline observed and projected in AOO/EOO, area, extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations; and extreme fluctuations in the number of mature individuals and AOO. |
| C               | Not eligible: >10 000 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| D2              | VU: <5 locations ; and plausible future threats that could drive taxon to EX in a very short time.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| E               | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                             | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                                   | n/a      | n/a        | n/a           | Land clearing for agriculture and urbanisation has resulted in the decline and severe fragmentation of available habitat for the species.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Grazing and trampling (sheep, cattle, rabbits)<br><i>Past</i> | n/a      | n/a        | n/a           | Grazing by domestic stock and rabbits (which historically occurred in high densities throughout the range of <i>B. antipoda</i> ) is considered the major cause of extinction in Tasmania (Leigh <i>et al.</i> 1984), and may have contributed to local extinctions in Victoria.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Grazing and trampling (feral animals)<br><i>Suspended</i>     | Majority | Slow       | Low           | Rabbits, feral pigs, deer and goats are present on Leanganook (Mt Alexander) and surrounds in low numbers. Some patches of <i>B. antipoda</i> have been fenced to reduce herbivory. Current impact of introduced animals is negligible, however ongoing monitoring and control is necessary.                                                                                                                                                           |
| Human activities and disturbance<br><i>Ongoing</i>            | Majority | Rapid      | Medium        | The population of <i>B. antipoda</i> occurs in an area subject to high visitation and infrastructure pressures and is vulnerable to trampling, vehicle damage and altered hydrology from inappropriately placed tracks and firebreaks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                              | Minority | Rapid      | Medium        | <i>Poa bulbosa</i> is an aggressive coloniser of areas with shallow soil and seasonal drying patterns; there is evidence to suggest it is encroaching into a number of moss mats containing <i>B. antipoda</i> . Upslope weed infestations can adversely impact micro-hydrology of moss mats.                                                                                                                                                          |
| Grazing and trampling (native animals)<br><i>Ongoing</i>      | Majority | Negligible | Negligible    | Macropods browse and trample subpopulations, and white-winged choughs upturn moss-mats while foraging, but current impacts of native animals seem negligible. Disturbance caused by choughs may assist in maintenance of suitable habitat (Seidel <i>et al.</i> 2005).                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Too-frequent fire<br><i>Ongoing</i>                           | Majority | Unknown    | Unknown       | Most of Leanganook (Mt Alexander) has been burnt in recent years, but sheltered habitats may have protected the moss mats from burning. One large patch of <i>B. antipoda</i> disappeared after an escaped fuel reduction burn in 2009, but this was apparently recovering by 2015. Fire may also increase erosion, weed invasion and changes in micro-hydrology with implications for habitat suitability, but these impacts are not well understood. |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>                               | Whole    | Rapid      | Medium        | Recruitment of <i>B. antipoda</i> depends on the timing and intensity of winter rainfall, and the severity of desiccation of moss mats and the thin soil layer in the previous dry period. The habitat of <i>B. antipoda</i> is predicted to become hotter, spend more time in drought and experience a decrease in winter rainfall (Grose <i>et al.</i> 2015).                                                                                        |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified in a recovery plan (Nevill and Camelleri 2010) and reviewed by Foreman (2011; 2014a).
- Translocation to areas of suitable habitat on Leanganook (Mt Alexander) and at Talarook State Forest have been attempted and evaluated (Foreman 2014b) with limited success. Seed collection and translocation efforts are ongoing, focusing on locations beyond Leanganook (Mt Alexander).
- *Ballantinia antipoda* is protected within Mt Alexander Regional Park and weed and rabbit control are undertaken regularly. An additional subpopulation occurs on private property not managed for conservation.
- Local community groups have been involved in monitoring, field days and weed control over the past decade, and conservation of the species has been promoted through interpretative signage and extension activities. It is also one of the few threatened plants in Australia to feature in a children's book, *Landing With Wings* by Trace Balla (Balla 2020).

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Improve habitat quality at known subpopulations and in other areas of potentially suitable habitat via fire management, weed control, exclusion of human activities and modification of micro-hydrology.
- Propagate species and establish *ex situ* subpopulations, with view to re-introduce to historic areas and other suitable habitat (a number of sites in south-eastern Australia including Tasmania).

## Information required

| Theme                                       | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                          | Given the species is prone to fluctuations and a new subpopulation was located in 2013, further surveys at known and historic sites are recommended after sufficient winter rains.                                                    | High     |
|                                             | Monitor response of subpopulations to threats and management actions.                                                                                                                                                                 | High     |
| Life history and ecology                    | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |
|                                             | Determine the length soil-stored seed can remain viable.                                                                                                                                                                              | High     |
| Habitat quality                             | Undertake research to better understand the impact of fire, invasive weeds and disturbance on <i>B. antipoda</i> to inform appropriate management strategies.                                                                         | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/ translocations | Determine requirements to successfully propagate the species <i>ex situ</i> .                                                                                                                                                         | High     |
|                                             | Determine requirements for successful translocation.                                                                                                                                                                                  | Medium   |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Collect and store seed of <i>B. antipoda</i> for conservation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | High     |
|                                            | Propagate species in <i>ex situ</i> collection in preparation for re-introduction across the historical range of the species.                                                                                                                                                                                       | High     |
| Habitat protection and restoration         | Maintain fences around known subpopulations to protect from foot traffic, bike tracks and vehicle damage. Maintain track closures to minimise foot and vehicle traffic in the area, and realign existing tracks if necessary. Avoid creation of new tracks or firebreaks within 100 metres of known subpopulations. | High     |
|                                            | Ongoing weed and feral animal monitoring and management.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | High     |
|                                            | Implement a fire management plan at Leanganook (Mt Alexander) and any future translocation sites.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | High     |
|                                            | Protect habitat of species on private property within appropriate conservation agreement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Medium   |



| Theme                   | Specific actions                                                                                                                              | Priority |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Extension and awareness | Raise awareness of the species with relevant stakeholders in an attempt to locate additional subpopulations and protect known subpopulations. | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Paul Foreman, Karly Learmonth, Neville Walsh and Richard Schahinger.

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***Banksia fuscobracteata* (A.S.George) A.R.Mast & K.R.Thiele**  
**[PROTEACEAE]**  
 Dark-bract banksia



*Banksia fuscobracteata* conflorescence and foliage (image: Andrew Crawford).

### Overview

*Banksia fuscobracteata* is known from two small roadside subpopulations at ongoing risk of habitat degradation through roadworks, gravel extraction and invasive weeds. Conservation actions have been implemented but declines continue despite some recruitment and fluctuations. The species is also susceptible to phytophthora *Phytophthora cinnammoni* under laboratory conditions. Seed has been collected and translocations to secure tenure may be considered in the future.

### Conservation status

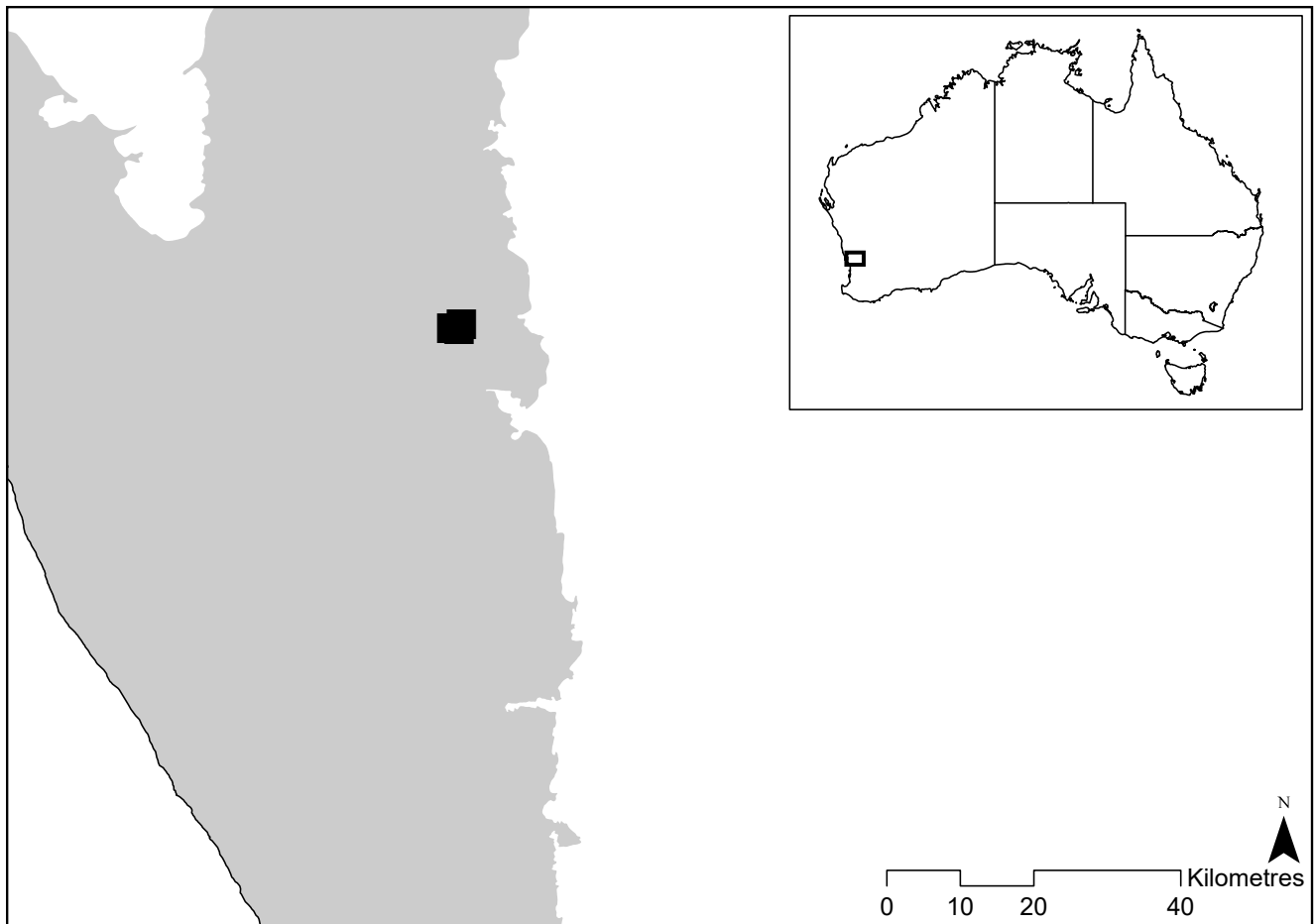
|                                                                      |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered |
| IUCN Red List                                                        | Critically Endangered |

### Brief description

Erect, prickly shrub to 1 m tall with densely hairy stems (George 1996). Leaves cuneate and serrate with 4-9 teeth on each side of the leaf margins. Petiole 5-10 mm long, lamina 4-7 cm long and 1-3 cm wide, glabrous above and below, with slightly recurved or flat margins. Conflorescence terminal or on a short lateral branchlet, with hairy, linear involucral bracts that are dark brown towards the apex, and 180-190 flowers. Each flower has a pale yellow perianth, cream pistil 22-26 mm long, and narrow, rusty-brown pollen presenter to 1 mm long. Three or four follicles 9-12 mm long develop on each head (George 1996). *Banksia fuscobracteata* differs from the similar *B. cuneata* by having dark brown involucral bracts, more flowers per head, a grey perianth limb and smaller, darker pollen presenter (George 1996).

## Distribution

*Banksia fuscobracteata* is known from two sites within 2 km near Gillingarra within the Swan Coastal Plain bioregion of south-western Western Australia (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020).



Current distribution (black squares) of *Banksia fuscobracteata* in the Swan Coastal Plain bioregion (shaded grey) of Western Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Banksia fuscobracteata* was first recorded during a survey of remnant vegetation in 1983 (Department of Environment and Conservation 2008). When it was described (George 1996) only two small subpopulations were known; on a narrow road verge and on private property. Time-series monitoring has been sporadic from 1991 to present, but indicates the species is declining (DBCA 2020; DEC 2008). There were 96 mature individuals in 2004 and 58 by 2010. The majority of individuals occurring on private property were cleared between 2006 and 2007 when property ownership changed, as the new owners were not made aware of the species (DEC 2008); equating to a population reduction of ca. 50% over 3 years (2004-2007). Only 43 mature individuals remain (DBCA 2020). Targeted surveys by specialist staff were undertaken during the flowering seasons of 1999 and 2001, but no additional subpopulations have been located (DEC 2008).

*Banksia fuscobracteata* monitoring data, 1985-2020 (DBCA 2020).

| Subpopulation (tenure)              | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                                 | Trend      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1b*,c (road reserve)*               | 1999: 25<br>2004: 49 (17)<br>2007: 40 (23)<br>2008: 48 (not recorded)<br>2010: 50 (17)<br>2011: 48 (13)<br>2016: 35 (10) | Decreasing |
| 2* (road reserve/private property)* | 2001: 17<br>2004: 47 (0)<br>2007: 9 (1)<br>2008: 12 (0)<br>2010: 8 (13)                                                  | Decreasing |

\* Subpopulations 1a/1b and 2a/2b have been combined.

## Habitat and ecology

*Banksia fuscobracteata* occurs in gravelly-sandy soils over laterite amongst dense, low heath, usually along ridges (DEC 2008). Associated species include *Allocasuarina humilis*, *B. kippistiana*, *Hakea incrassata*, *H. scoparia*, *Calothamnus sanguineus*, *Acacia stenoptera* and *Adenanthos cygnorum* (DEC 2008).

*Banksia fuscobracteata* does not have a lignotuber (George 1996) and is probably killed by fire. The seed of *B. fuscobracteata* is stored in the canopy and released after fire (DEC 2008), so extreme fluctuations are considered probable, although not evident in monitoring data (IUCN 2019). Recruitment has also been observed shortly after mechanical disturbance during gravel extraction and fence construction (DEC 2008). Open areas may be important for seed germination and survival (DEC 2008). Recruitment can also occur in the absence of disturbance, with 10 juveniles present in 2016. Laboratory trials found 95-100% of fresh seeds germinated without any treatment (DEC 2008). The generation length of this species is not precisely known but monitoring data indicates >10 years.

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                  | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.4 km <sup>2</sup> )  | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                    | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.1 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                    | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 43                                        | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 2 (infrastructure maintenance)            | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                    | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 2                                         | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                    | High        |
| Generation length             | 10 years                                  | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Probable                                  | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                       | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                    | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A2a            | EN: >50% reduction observed within 3 generations (ca. 50% from 2004-2007); causes may not be reversible; based on direct observation.                                                               |
| B1+2ab(iii,v)  | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; and continuing decline observed and projected in area/extent and quality of habitat and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                           |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                        |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                 | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                       | n/a      | n/a      | n/a           | Land clearing for agriculture has resulted in the decline and fragmentation of available habitat for the species. The species is considered severely fragmented as all remaining subpopulations are small and isolated amongst a cleared landscape.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i>      | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | Both subpopulations occur on road reserves and are vulnerable to maintenance activities including grading, drainage construction, clearing, chemical spraying and grading. One subpopulation occurs partly on private property and within a firebreak and may be impacted by maintenance activities. The species occurs at two locations when assessed against this threat, as management activities are determined by land tenure. |
| Extractive industry<br><i>Ongoing</i>             | Majority | Rapid    | High          | The species occurs on lateritic gravels and is vulnerable to gravel extraction. Twenty-five plants were destroyed in the past due to gravel extraction activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Lack of appropriate disturbance<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Majority | Slow     | Medium        | Natural disturbance events are limited within the very small patches of remnant habitat where the species occurs. Disturbance such as fire facilitates recruitment, although if too frequent, may deplete both adult abundance and seed reserves.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                  | Whole    | Slow     | Medium        | Both subpopulations are small and occur in degraded roadside remnants where invasive weeds occur. Invasive weeds increase competition and alter fuel loads and thus fire regimes, which may have substantial impacts on recruitment and overall abundance.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Future</i>             | Whole    | Rapid    | Medium        | <i>Banksia fuscobractea</i> is highly susceptible to phytophthora infection under artificial conditions (Shearer <i>et al.</i> 2013). The presence and impact of this pathogen is yet to be investigated for wild <i>B. fuscobractea</i> subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                            |

## Current management

- Recovery actions are identified in the conservation advice (Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts 2009) and recovery plan (DEC 2008).
- The portion of Subpopulation 2 on private land has been fenced following a clearing incident in 2007.
- Seed has been collected from both subpopulations and is stored at the Western Australian Seed Centre. There are currently 1069 seeds in storage from Subpopulation 1 and 110 seeds from Subpopulation 2. Collections from Subpopulation 1 were made in 1994, 1996, 2000 and 2011 from 10-29 plants, and collections from Subpopulation 2 were made in 2011 and 2012 from two plants. Testing indicated that between 95 and 100% of seed collected from Subpopulation 1 was germinable.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Protect habitat of known subpopulations in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via translocations.

## Information required

| Theme                                       | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Priority |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                          | Undertake targeted surveys in suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                            | High     |
|                                             | Continue to monitor known subpopulations in response to threats and management activities.                                                                                                                                                                     | High     |
| Introduced pathogens                        | Determine whether the phytophthora is present in the habitat of the species.                                                                                                                                                                                   | High     |
|                                             | Determine <i>in situ</i> management actions to mitigate the impacts of phytophthora.                                                                                                                                                                           | High     |
| Disturbance ecology                         | Undertake research to document the disturbance ecology of the species. Determine methods to increase population abundance via disturbance.                                                                                                                     | High     |
| Life history and ecology                    | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements, response to disturbance and habitat suitability for translocations. | Medium   |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/ translocations | Identify areas of habitat on secure tenure that are suitable for translocations.                                                                                                                                                                               | Medium   |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                       | Specific actions                                                                                                      | Priority |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                          | Protect known and potential habitat in appropriate conservation agreements.                                           | High     |
| Introduced pathogens                        | Implement and maintain disease hygiene measures to protect subpopulations against possible infection by phytophthora. | High     |
| Lack of appropriate disturbance             | If feasible, implement fire management plan to increase recruitment and population abundance over the long-term.      | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/ translocations | Maintain and expand <i>ex situ</i> seed collections to represent maximum range of genetic diversity possible.         | High     |
|                                             | Propagate plants from seed to augment wild population or translocate to secure tenure.                                | Medium   |
| Invasive weeds                              | Manage invasive weeds within known subpopulations, particularly after disturbance.                                    | Medium   |



## Experts consulted

Andrew Crawford, Tanya Llorens and Niall Sheehy.

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***Banksia montana* (C.A.Gardner ex A.S.George) A.R.Mast & K.R.Thiele [PROTEACEAE]**  
 Stirling Range dryandra



*Banksia montana* amongst montane heath at Koi Kyenu-ruff (Stirling Range National Park; image: Sarah Barrett).

## Overview

*Banksia montana* is known from four mountain peaks in the Critically Endangered montane thicket community of the Stirling Range. The interacting threats of phytophthora *Phytophthora cinnamomi* dieback, too-frequent fires and herbivory are causing rapid declines across all subpopulations, with climate change predicted to exacerbate this. Recovery hinges on management actions including phytophthora management, fire management, fencing and translocations.

## Conservation status

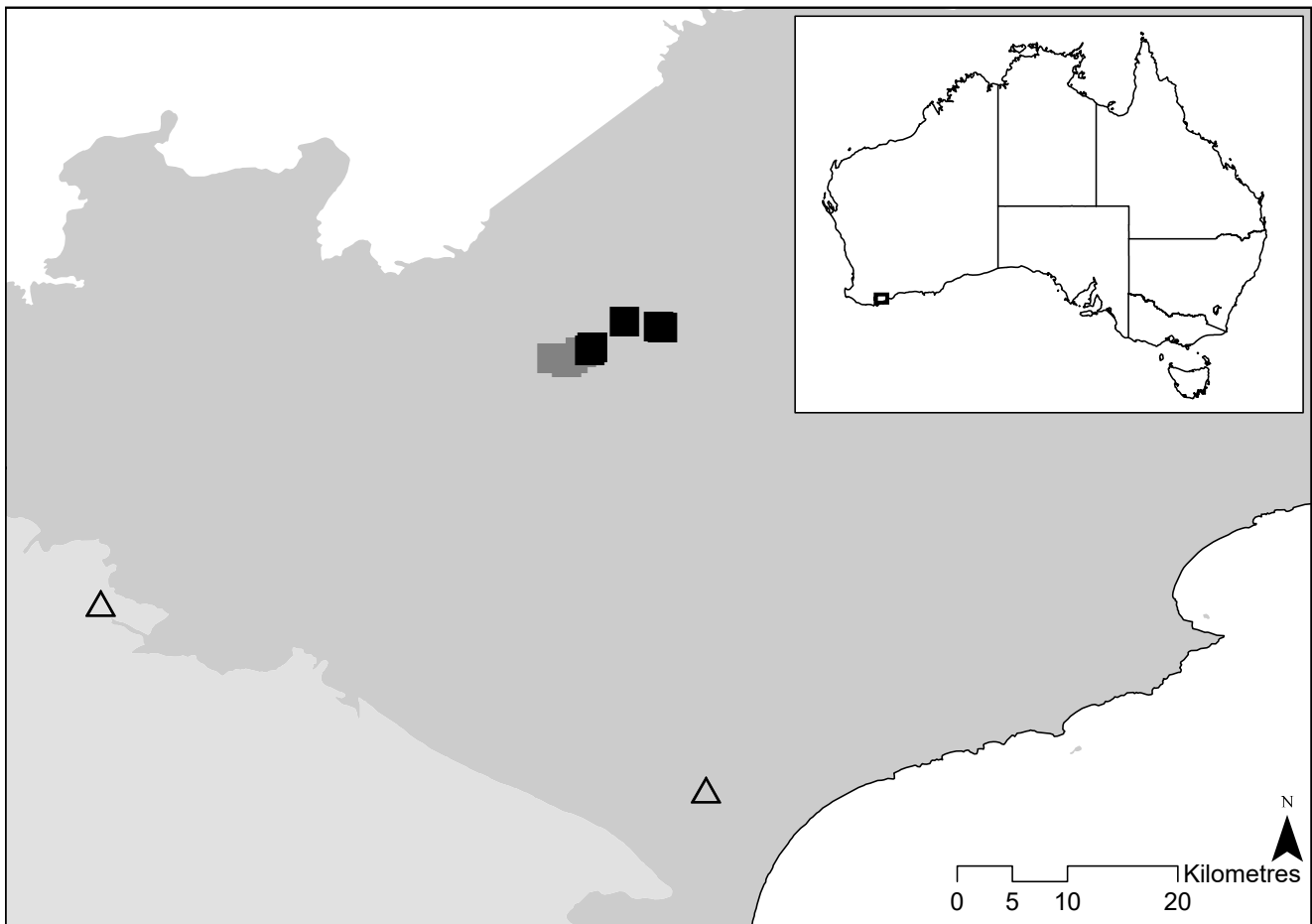
|                                                                      |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered |
| IUCN Red List                                                        | Critically Endangered |

## Brief description

Erect woody shrub to 2.5 m (George 1996). Leaves twisted, 8-25 cm long and 6-11 mm wide, with 35-60 deep, elongated, triangular lobes on each side that slightly overlap at the base (George 1996). The inflorescence of 50-60 yellow flowers is sessile and borne on old wood. Upper stems and fruits are covered in short red hairs (George 1996). The leaves of *B. montana* are considerably more leathery than the similar *B. plumosa* and *B. pseudoplumosa* (George 1996).

## Distribution

*Banksia montana* is known from a very narrow area along the peaks of Koi Kyenunu-ruff (the Stirling Range) within the Esperance Plains bioregion of south-western Western Australia (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012). It is considered extinct from one peak, and has been translocated to two sites outside its natural range (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020).



Current (black squares) and historic (grey squares) distribution of *Banksia montana* in the Esperance Plains bioregion (shaded dark grey) of Western Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020). The species has been introduced to two additional sites (hollow triangles) including the Jarrah Forest bioregion (shaded light grey), although these subpopulations are not yet self-sustaining (Silcock *et al.* 2019).

## Population estimate and trends

*Banksia montana* was first collected in 1964 from Bular Mial (Bluff Knoll) in Koi Kyenunu-ruff (the Stirling Range). Intensive surveys between 1996 and 2004 located four additional subpopulations and it is unlikely additional subpopulations exist (S Barrett pers.comm. 2020). By 2000, one subpopulation was extinct, with 137 mature individuals and 39 juveniles over four subpopulations remaining. After a fire in spring 2000, the population declined again to 55 mature individuals. This fire failed to stimulate recruitment at subpopulations that had been previously burnt in 1991 (Barrett and Yates 2015). Declines continued with only 34 plants in 2016, and after another fire in autumn 2018 only eight mature individuals persisted. Seedling germination did occur after this fire, however many of these, along with the eight mature individuals were killed by fire in 2019. There are no mature individuals currently persisting in the wild, equating to a population reduction of >90% over 18 years (2001–2019). Although a number of juvenile plants are now present at the four subpopulations, including reinforcement translocations to three subpopulations in 2018 (S Barrett pers. comm. 2020), it is not known whether they will survive to reproduce due to ongoing threats. Population monitoring has been ongoing since 1997, recording number of plants, recent deaths, threat impacts, canopy, flowering, fruiting and plant health (S Barrett pers.comm. 2019).

A seed orchard was established at Luscombe's Seed Orchard in 2003, alongside another translocated subpopulation at Benmore Tree Farm in 2010 (Silcock *et al.* 2019). Over several years, 138 and 48 seedlings have been planted at these sites, respectively. As of 2019/20, 65 and two plants were surviving but recruitment was absent (Barrett *et al.* 2011; R Dillon pers.comm. 2020) and these subpopulations are not yet considered self-sustaining.

*Banksia montana* monitoring data, 1995-2020 (DBCA 2020).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                             | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                            | Trend            |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Bular Mial (Bluff Knoll)<br>(national park)      | 1995: 21 (0)<br>2004: 7 (15)<br>2018: 4T<br>2020: 0 (630) (34T)     | Decreasing       |
| 2 Coyanarup (national park)                        | 2000: 0 (0)<br>2018: 0 (16T)<br>2020: 0 (13T)                       | Presumed extinct |
| 3 Kyanorup (national park)                         | 2000: 0 (0)<br>2020: 0                                              | Presumed extinct |
| 4 Pyungoorup (national park)                       | 1996: 23 (0)<br>2004: 19 (0)<br>2018: 7<br>2020: 0 (9)              | Decreasing       |
| 5 Isongerup (national park)                        | 1997: 13 (1)<br>2004: 3 (0)<br>2018: 0<br>2020: 0 (204)             | Decreasing       |
| 6 East Bluff (national park)                       | 1996: 61 (8)<br>2004: 16 (1)<br>2018: 1 (23T)<br>2020: 0 (14) (15T) | Decreasing       |
| 7 (T) Luscombes Seed<br>Orchard (private property) | 2003-2010: (138T*)<br>2019: 65T                                     | Unknown          |
| 8 (T) Benmore Tree Farm<br>(private property)      | 2010-2013: (48T*)<br>2016: 21T<br>2020: 2T                          | Decreasing       |

Translocated individuals/subpopulation (T). \*Total number of seedlings planted over multiple years.

## Habitat and ecology

*Banksia montana* occurs in dense montane heath on mountain summit areas at 900-1080 m above sea level (Gilfillan *et al.* 2008). It grows in sandy clay loam soils amongst rocks in the Critically Endangered Eastern Stirling Range Montane Heath and Thicket vegetation community. Flowering occurs between January and March (Gilfillan *et al.* 2013).

*Banksia montana* is serotinous, killed by fire and cannot re-sprout (Gilfillan *et al.* 2008). This species is characterised by a canopy-stored seedbank, rather than being stored in the soil. Some inter-fire recruitment is also likely as a result of occasional seed dehiscence in the absence of fire (S Barrett pers.comm. 2020). Following fire, seeds are released from the canopy for germination and seedlings must reach reproductive maturity before the next fire for the population to be maintained. Flowering and seed production vary between individuals and years, and may reflect plant age, health and pollination effectiveness (Gilfillan *et al.* 2008). Fruit and seed persist in the canopy for several years before disintegrating (S Barrett pers.comm. 2019). In 2000, 116 individuals were killed by fire and only 13 seedlings emerged post-fire (Gilfillan *et al.* 2008). After the fire in 2018, considerably higher levels of germination occurred, although subsequent fires in 2019 killed the last mature individuals along with 36 seedlings at two subpopulations (S Barrett pers.comm. 2019). Extreme fluctuations are probable as the majority of seed is stored in the canopy and can be exhausted in a single fire event (IUCN 2019).

The time to reproductive maturity is at least 9 years after germination and individuals have lived for at least 30 years (Gilfillan *et al.* 2008), but time to senescence is probably longer. The generation length is estimated as >10 years.

The *Banksia montana* mealybug (*Pseudococcus markharveyi*), which is directly dependent on *B. montana*, was discovered in 2007 and is listed as Critically Endangered in Western Australia and on the IUCN Red List (Gullan *et al.* 2013).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                                        | Estimate                                                | Reliability  |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual)<br>Trend | 12 km <sup>2</sup> (4.5 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing | High<br>High |
| Area of occupancy (actual)<br>Trend    | 12 km <sup>2</sup> (<1 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing  | High<br>High |
| No. of mature individuals<br>Trend     | 0<br>Decreasing                                         | High<br>High |
| No. of subpopulations<br>Trend         | 4<br>Decreasing                                         | High<br>High |
| No. of locations (key threat)<br>Trend | 2 (phytophthora)<br>Decreasing                          | High<br>High |
| Generation length                      | >10 years                                               | Medium       |
| Extreme fluctuations                   | Probable                                                | Medium       |
| Severely fragmented                    | Yes                                                     | High         |
| Continuing decline                     | Observed and projected                                  | High         |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A2ae           | CR: >80% reduction observed within 3 generations (>90% from 2000-2019); causes have not ceased and may not be reversible; based on direct observation and effects of introduced pathogens.                                                                     |
| B1ab(i-v)c(iv) | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, number of mature individuals; and extreme fluctuations in number of mature individuals. |
| C1+2a(i)b      | CR: <250 mature individuals; >25% decline in 1 generation (>90% from 2000-2009); continuing decline observed and projected; <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation; and extreme fluctuations in number of mature individuals.                            |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                      | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Majority | Very rapid | High          | <i>Banksia montana</i> is highly susceptible to phytophthora (Shearer <i>et al.</i> 2013). The habitat of three of four wild subpopulations is infested by phytophthora, and the pathogen has already caused one extirpation (Barrett and Yates 2015; Gilfillan <i>et al.</i> 2008). Some healthy individuals persist amongst infested vegetation. Phytophthora is also likely to impact <i>B. montana</i> indirectly by altering vegetation structure (Barrett and Yates 2015). Although naturally restricted and fragmented, <i>B. montana</i> is also severely fragmented as all subpopulations are reduced and isolated due to phytophthora with limited possibility of recolonisation following local extinctions (IUCN 2019). |



| Threat and timing                            | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | <i>Banksia montana</i> is a serotinous obligate-seeder with a long juvenile period; recommended fire intervals are >18 years (Gilfillan <i>et al.</i> 2008). Most areas of the montane thickets burnt in various combinations of the 1972, 1991, 2000, 2018 and 2019 fires. The 2000 fire caused high mortality and little recruitment (Gilfillan <i>et al.</i> 2008). The 2018 fire reduced the population to eight mature individuals, and none remained after the 2019 fire, although there has been some seedling germination (S Barrett pers.comm. 2019). |
| Herbivory (browsing)<br><i>Ongoing</i>       | Majority | Slow     | Medium        | <i>Banksia montana</i> is vulnerable to browsing by the native quokka, especially after fire (Rathbone and Barrett 2017). Forty percent of seedlings that emerged post-fire in 2001 were heavily browsed (Gilfillan <i>et al.</i> 2008). Maintaining intact fencing requires considerable effort in these remote and very windy rocky areas. New fencing was required for seedlings from the 2019 fire. Ongoing survey is required to check for any seedlings that have been missed and need fencing (T Llorens pers.comm. 2020).                              |
| Human activities<br><i>Future</i>            | Minority | Slow     | Low           | Bushwalkers are thought to have contributed to phytophthora spread in the area, and may also impact individuals via trampling and increased erosion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>              | Whole    | Slow     | Low           | Climate change may alter the unique climatic conditions of the region and reduce the area of suitable habitat for <i>B. montana</i> (Monks <i>et al.</i> 2019).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified in a recovery plan (Gilfillan *et al.* 2008).
- This species occurs in Stirling Range National Park, which is managed for conservation.
- Approximately 9000 seeds were collected from 1994-2018 and stored in the Threatened Flora Seed Centre in Perth. Limited germination trials have been undertaken. Tissue culture and propagation from cuttings have been unsuccessful, although research to develop tissue culture techniques is ongoing (S Barrett pers.comm. 2019).
- Reinforcement translocations were implemented in three subpopulations in 2018. A disease-free seed orchard was established in 2003, with seed being banked in preparation for future translocations (Monks *et al.* 2019). Irrigation has been re-activated at this site to improve plant health and reproduction (S Barrett pers.comm. 2020). A second seed orchard at Benmore Tree Farm was established in 2010 with 48 seedlings planted over several years (T Llorens pers.comm. 2020).
- Fire management strategies aim to exclude fire from the habitat of the montane heath habitat (S Barrett pers. comm. 2020).
- Phosphite has been applied at all extant subpopulations from 1997-2020 (S Barrett pers.comm. 2019).
- All mature and juvenile plants were fenced to protect from browsing in the early 2000s, with extensive fencing undertaken in 2018, 2019 and 2020 to protect seedlings from herbivory (S Barrett pers.comm. 2019).

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Establish additional, viable *ex situ* subpopulations in disease-free areas on secure tenure.
- Increase abundance of extant population by reducing the collective impacts of threats through ongoing phosphite spraying, phytophthora hygiene, fence maintenance, exclosures around new subpopulations, reinforcement translocations and ongoing strategic planned burns.



## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Undertake monitoring at all subpopulations (extant and presumed extinct) to document response to threats and management actions.                                                                                                      | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Identify additional sites suitable for translocation. A limited number of phytophthora-free mountaintops occur in Koi Kyenunu-ruff (the Stirling Range) but these are outside the historical and current distribution of the species. | High     |
|                                            | Continue reinforcement translocations following an evaluation of the success of 2018 plantings.                                                                                                                                       | High     |
| Introduced pathogens                       | Identify/develop phytophthora resistant genotypes through screening and tissue culture. Augment wild subpopulations with resistant genotypes.                                                                                         | High     |
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, seed predation and germination requirements.                         | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Maintain seed orchard and expand <i>ex situ</i> subpopulation to represent the maximum amount of genetic diversity possible. Bank seed in preparation for future translocations to disease-free locations.                                                                                                                                                  | High     |
| Introduced pathogens                       | Maintain disease hygiene measures at all subpopulations including signage, restricting access and phosphite application.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | High     |
|                                            | Continue aerial phosphite application to mitigate disease impact. This may have co-benefits for <i>Andersonia axilliflora</i> , <i>Darwinia collina</i> , <i>Latrobea colophona</i> , <i>Leucopogon gnaphalioides</i> and <i>Persoonia micrantha</i> .                                                                                                      | High     |
| Herbivory (browsing)                       | Maintain and expand exclusion fencing to protect seedlings, juveniles and mature individuals from herbivory, especially after recruitment events following fire.                                                                                                                                                                                            | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Implement fire management strategies to exclude fire from the habitat of the montane heath habitat to allow vegetation structure to recover and <i>B. montana</i> to complete its life cycle (S Barrett pers.comm. 2020). Fire is required for germination and return intervals for <i>B. montana</i> are recommended at >18 years (Gilfillan et al. 2008). | High     |

## Experts consulted

Sarah Barrett, Leonie Monks and Rebecca Dillon.

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## *Borya mirabilis* Churchill [BORYACEAE] Grampians pincushion-lily



*Borya mirabilis* (clockwise from top left) flowers, habit, ramets (images: Neville Walsh, State Botanical Collection, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria), and rock ledge habitat (image: Noushka Reiter).

### Overview

*Borya mirabilis* is a 'resurrection plant' known from a single population comprising four colonies on a rock ledge in Gariwerd (Grampians National Park). Each colony comprises multiple clonal ramets and the species is almost infertile. *Phytophthora cinnamomi* has exacerbated existing declines due to drought, erosion, herbivore disturbance and competition with native species post-fire. The species was translocated to a disease-free area where it was reproducing clonally, but all plants had died by 2019 due to lack of site maintenance. Priority recovery actions are regular monitoring and management of the population, establishing an *ex situ* subpopulation and surveys to locate additional genetic individuals.

### Conservation status

|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>                            | Threatened                         |
| Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria               | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

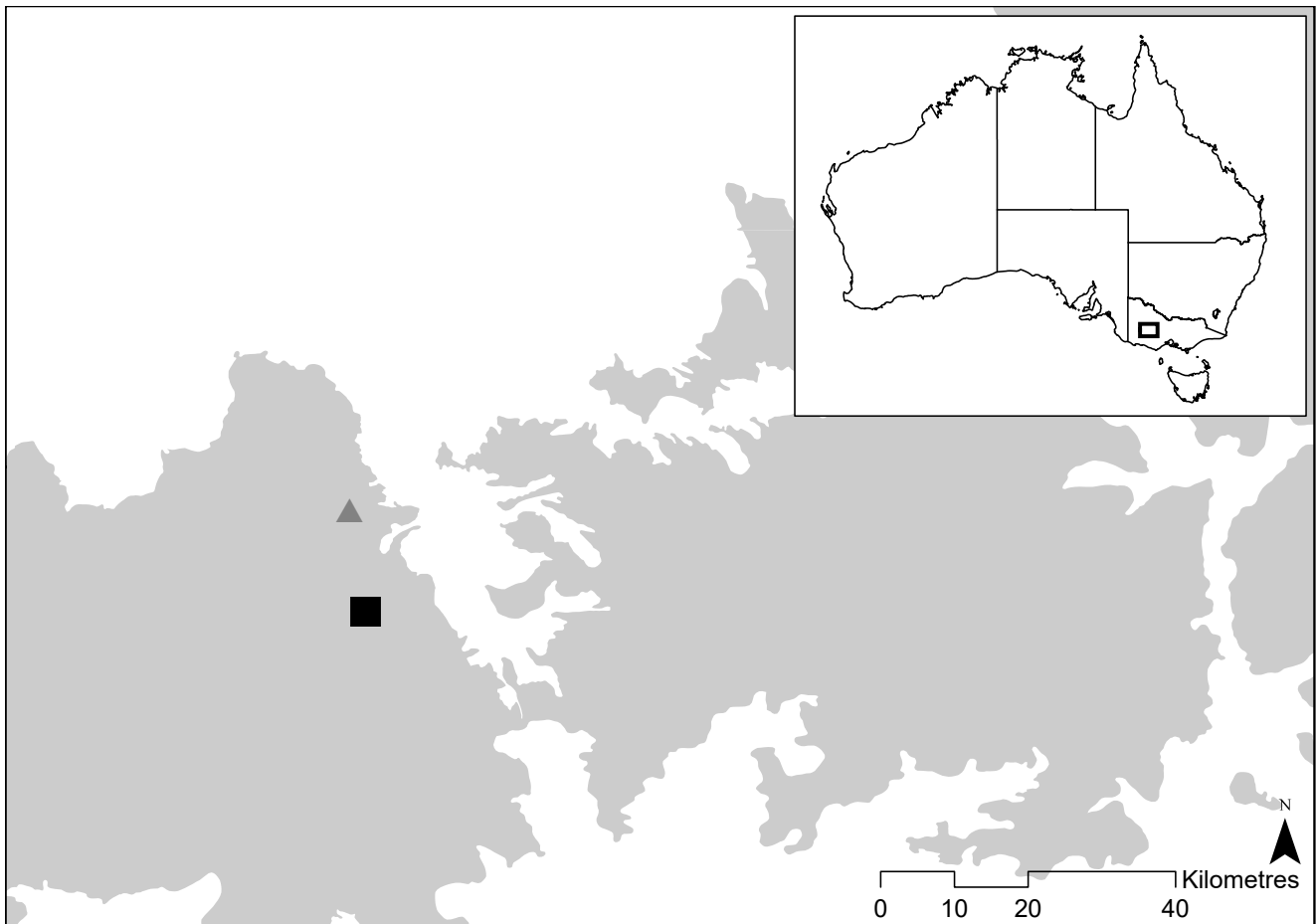
### Brief description

Perennial herb with multiple clonal shoots (ramets) growing to 15 cm in height (Churchill 1985). Ramets form a clump with brown, erect or ascending stems covered in scale-like leaf sheaths. Leaves are linear and spiky, 10-16 mm long and 0.5 mm wide, tapering from a persistent sheath. Inflorescence is terminal with 4-12 white flowers on scapes held together in ovoid heads surrounded by sharp involucre bracts (Churchill 1985). It is the only species of the *Borya* genus found in south-eastern Australia.



## Distribution

*Borya mirabilis* is known from a very restricted distribution in the Wonderland Range in the Victorian Midlands bioregion of central-western Victoria (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2020). A translocation 20 km away was initially successful but all plants had died by 2019 (Silcock *et al.* 2019). *Borya mirabilis* is considered severely fragmented as it occurs in a single isolated subpopulation and recolonisation following possible extinction cannot occur (IUCN 2019).



Current (black square) and translocated (grey triangle; now extinct) distribution of *Borya mirabilis* in the Victorian Midlands bioregion (shaded grey) of Victoria (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DELWP 2020; Silcock *et al.* 2019).

## Population estimate and trends

*Borya mirabilis* was first collected in 1924 and was considered extinct until it was relocated in 1983 in the Wonderland Range (Kahout and Coates 2010). The species is currently known from a single subpopulation of four plants with three genetically distinct individuals (N Reiter pers.comm. 2020). For clonal species, population abundance is measured by the number of distinct reproductive units (i.e. ramets; IUCN 2019). The species declined from >200 ramets in 2003 to 70 over 1200 m<sup>2</sup> in 2015 (Reiter *et al.* 2015), equating to a population reduction of 65%. Sixteen plants were introduced to Mt Difficult in 2004 (Silcock *et al.* 2019). Twelve plants established with clonal reproduction, increasing to 504 ramets in 2012, but all were dead by 2019 (N Reiter pers.comm. 2020).

Time-series monitoring data was collected every three months from 1999-2000. Monitoring was undertaken regularly between 2007 and 2015, and revealed an overall decline in population health due to a number of threats simultaneously affecting the entire population (one location; Coates *et al.* 2002). Surveys have been conducted throughout similar habitat in the region, although the area and habitat is remote, indicating additional subpopulations may exist. There are unsubstantiated reports of additional subpopulations elsewhere in the Gariwerd (Grampians) region.

*Borya mirabilis* monitoring data, 2003-2019 (Reiter *et al.* 2015; N Reiter unpublished data).

| Subpopulation (tenure)             | Number of mature individuals (ramets)                                   | Trend            |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Wonderland Range (national park) | 2003: 7 (>200)<br>2007: 5 (70)<br>2015: 3 (70)<br>2019: 3 (not counted) | Decreasing       |
| 2 (T) Mt Difficult (national park) | 2004: 12T (200)<br>2012: 12T (504)<br>2017: 12T (47)<br>2019: 0T (0)    | Presumed extinct |

Translocated individuals/subpopulation (T).

## Habitat and ecology

*Borya mirabilis* occurs in low open shrubland on ferruginous terraced sandstone outcrops with a slope of ~15° facing north-east (Kahout and Coates 2010). Soils are typically dry in summer, becoming moist in cooler months via seepage combined with impeded drainage (Kahout and Coates 2010). The seepage results in an accumulation of fine sandy loam soil, which is rare in rocky environments (Kahout and Coates 2010). Associated species include *Grevillea aquifolium*, *Kunzea parvifolia*, *Calytrix tetragona*, *Melaleuca decussata*, *Dodonaea viscosa*, *Lepidosperma viscosa*, *Gonocarpos mezianus*, *Phyllanthus hirtellus*, *Leptospermum scoparium* and *Rytidosperma setaceum* (Kahout and Coates 2010). Other annual herbs appear in spring (Kahout and Coates 2010).

*Borya mirabilis* is xeromorphic; plants desiccate after spring flowering and regenerate in cool, wet weather at the end of summer to early autumn (Gaff and Churchill 1976). Plants can also re-sprout following fire. *Borya mirabilis* has an arbuscular mycorrhizal association that forms inside its root nodules (Reiter *et al.* 2013).

*Borya mirabilis* flowers bear nectar and are probably pollinated by flies and ants (Reiter *et al.* 2015). Seed production is very rare. Only a single seed has been produced via hand pollination, which did not germinate under controlled conditions (Reiter *et al.* 2015). The extremely low fecundity is probably caused by inviable pollen, low genetic diversity and unevenly maturing ovules (Reiter *et al.* 2015). Clonal reproduction appears to be the only form of viable reproduction (Reiter *et al.* 2015). Generation length is not precisely known, but given plants (colonies) can live for many decades, it is estimated to be at least 20 years.

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                   | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.002 km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Increasing                                 | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.002 km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Increasing                                 | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 70 ramets                                  | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (all threats)                            | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 1                                          | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| Generation length             | >20 years                                  | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                             | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                        | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed                                   | Medium      |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A2a            | EN: >50% reduction observed within 3 generations (65% from 2003-2015); causes may not have ceased, are not well-understood, and may not be reversible; based on direct observation.                                             |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; and continuing decline observed in EOO, AOO, quality of habitat, number of locations/subpopulations, number of mature individuals. |
| C1+2a(ii)      | CR: <250 mature individuals, continuing decline of >25% in 1 generation observed; and 100% of individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                                                 |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                    |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                           | Scope | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i>         | Whole | Rapid      | High          | <i>Borya mirabilis</i> habitat is naturally prone to erosion, which has been exacerbated in recent years due to fire, prolonged drought and sporadic heavy rainfall, leaving the plants on small patches of soil (Kahout and Coates 2010). This is exacerbated by digging from rabbits, echidnas and other foraging animals.                                                      |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Ongoing</i>                      | Whole | Rapid      | High          | <i>Borya mirabilis</i> is moderately susceptible to phytophthora and the pathogen is present among the wild population (Reiter <i>et al.</i> 2004). Phytophthora causes chlorosis, browning, reduced vigour and eventual death. The death of the <i>ex situ</i> collection and one wild colony has been attributed to phytophthora (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019).                    |
| Low genetic diversity<br><i>Ongoing</i>                     | Whole | Rapid      | High          | Three genetically distinct individuals of <i>B. mirabilis</i> are currently known. Reproduction is thought to be exclusively clonal (Reiter <i>et al.</i> 2015). Low genetic diversity limits the capacity of this species to adapt to environmental change.                                                                                                                      |
| Competition<br><i>Ongoing</i>                               | Whole | Rapid      | High          | Competition with native vegetation post-fire may cause declines of <i>B. mirabilis</i> , particularly where exclosures are installed to prevent herbivore disturbance. Two cages at the translocation site had dense <i>Thryptomene</i> sp. and <i>Melaleuca</i> sp. regrowth to 1 m high, which may have outcompeted <i>B. mirabilis</i> (N Reiter pers.comm. 2020).             |
| Vertebrate disturbance (feral and native)<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole | Slow       | Medium        | The restricted, unstable habitat of <i>B. mirabilis</i> renders it vulnerable to digging and trampling by rabbits, goats, deer and possibly macropods. Subsequent erosion damages plants and causes soil drying (Coates <i>et al.</i> 2002). Goats and rabbits were common at the translocation site in 2019 and may have contributed to plant death (N Reiter pers. comm. 2020). |
| Stochastic events<br><i>Future</i>                          | Whole | Very rapid | Medium        | Given the small population size, restricted distribution and limited genetic diversity, this species is extremely vulnerable to stochastic events and has low capacity to adapt to environmental change (Reiter <i>et al.</i> 2013).                                                                                                                                              |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>                             | Whole | Slow       | Low           | Climatic drying may exacerbate the effects of erosion and increase the possibility of stochastic events, as well as potentially exacerbating the impacts of phytophthora.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified in the recovery plan (Kahout and Coates 2010).
- The species is protected and included in the management plan for Grampians National Park (Parks Victoria 2003).
- Research into the effect of phytophthora, tissue culture, pollination, mycorrhizal associations and genetics of the species has been undertaken (Reiter *et al.* 2004, 2013, 2015; Reiter 2008).
- Cuttings were collected in 2019 and some successfully propagated *ex situ* (N Reiter pers.comm. 2020).
- Measures to reduce erosion and disturbance have been implemented.
- A management strategy for phytophthora in Grampians National Park has been implemented (Gallon *et al.* 2017).
- Extensive aerial and on-ground searches have been undertaken.
- Lack of funding has limited regular monitoring and maintenance of both subpopulations since 2014, leading to extinction of the translocated subpopulation. Regular monitoring and management of the extant subpopulation must be re-implemented to detect and manage issues that arise including with goat and rabbit pressure.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain wild population on an annual basis.
- Detect more subpopulations through targeted surveys. If additional subpopulations are located, attempt hand pollination as an opportunity to mix genes.
- Establish *ex situ* subpopulation representing maximum range of genetic diversity.
- Establish self-sustaining translocated subpopulations to spread risk of species extinction.

## Information required

| Theme                          | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys             | Undertake targeted surveys in suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | High     |
|                                | Monitor population to determine response to recovery actions and threats; limited to once per year to reduce risk of disease spread (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | High     |
| Genetic diversity/reproduction | Investigate if seeds are the product of sexual recombination or apomixes (Reiter <i>et al.</i> 2015).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Medium   |
|                                | Use nuclear and organelle probes to compare the genome of <i>B. mirabilis</i> with other extant <i>Borya</i> spp. (Reiter <i>et al.</i> 2015).<br>Further artificial pollination attempts are likely to be unsuccessful in producing viable seed (Reiter <i>et al.</i> 2015). However, if additional genotypes are located this should be undertaken in an attempt to produce viable seed.                                            | Medium   |
| Mycorrhizal fungi              | Precisely determine the structure and identity of the fungi inside the root nodules of <i>B. mirabilis</i> via DNA analysis (Reiter <i>et al.</i> 2013). If the fungi species is the same as present in mycorrhizae of other, non-endangered taxa in the region, their roots can be used to inoculate roots of <i>B. mirabilis</i> in <i>ex situ</i> or translocated subpopulations to aid establishment (Reiter <i>et al.</i> 2013). | Medium   |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Introduced pathogens                       | Apply phosphonate spray to wild population where phytophthora is present.                                                                                                                                                                                  | High     |
|                                            | Maintain basic hygiene measures including fencing to exclude human foot traffic and providing footbaths on walking tracks.                                                                                                                                 | High     |
|                                            | Augment wild population with additional individuals to reduce risk of extinction.                                                                                                                                                                          | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Establish <i>ex situ</i> collection in Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria using tissue culture methods developed on <i>B. nitida</i> (Reiter 2009). Ensure collection includes maximum range of genetic diversity possible (Reiter <i>et al.</i> 2015).        | High     |
|                                            | Establish translocated subpopulations in disease-free areas of suitable habitat. The species naturally occurs on a single sandstone outcrop and could be translocated to other peaks and sandstone outcrops within the vicinity of the wild subpopulation. | High     |
|                                            | Ensure all translocated subpopulations contain maximum range of genetic diversity present in wild population and are regularly monitored and managed (Reiter <i>et al.</i> 2015).                                                                          | High     |
| Habitat degradation (erosion)              | Maintain soil stabilisation measures to prevent erosion with caging/ fencing and exclusion of vertebrate pests and foot traffic, especially after fires. Monitor subpopulation to ensure that vegetation in cages does not smother <i>B. mirabilis</i> .   | High     |

## Experts consulted

Noushka Reiter and Neville Walsh.

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## *Caladenia amoena* D.L.Jones [ORCHIDACEAE] Charming spider-orchid



*Caladenia amoena* flower and hairy leaf (image: Colin and Mischa Rowan).

### Overview

*Caladenia amoena* is known from fewer than 50 individuals that occur over three locations. The species has undergone a rapid decline due to habitat loss and degradation, and much of its habitat remains unprotected. Recent research into germination requirements provides a promising opportunity for species recovery via *ex situ* propagation and subsequent translocation into secure tenure. However, two previous translocation attempts have failed to establish self-sustaining populations and future climate projections are unfavourable for emergence and flowering of the species.

### Conservation status

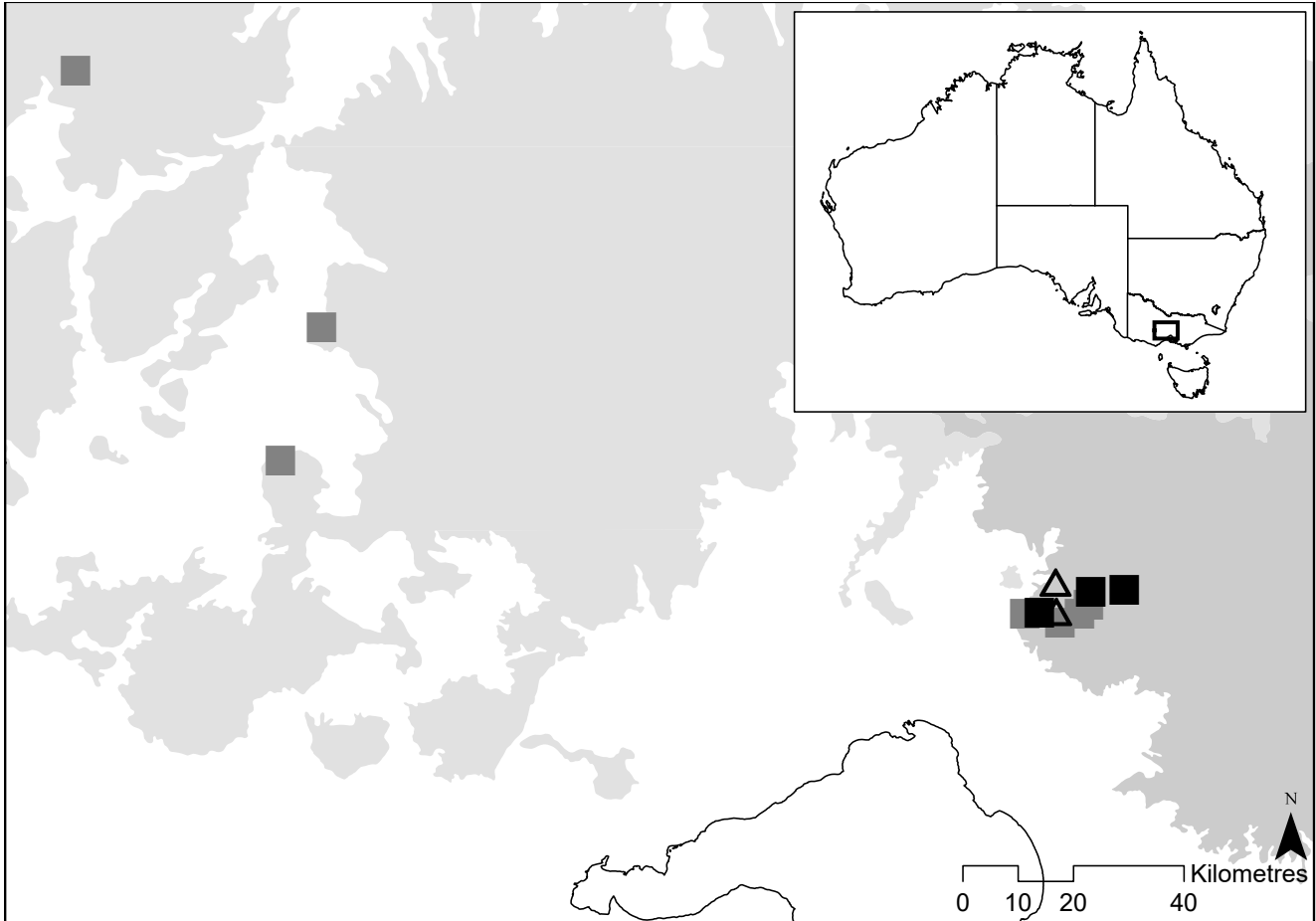
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>                            | Threatened                         |
| Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria               | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Deciduous and hirsute terrestrial herb to 12 cm forming a spherical, subterranean tuber that is protected by a tough, fibrous tunic (Todd 2000). Leaves are lanceolate and densely hairy, 3-8 mm wide and 7-9 mm long with purple blotches at the base (Jones 1994). Bears a single (or rarely two) flower(s) 12-14 mm across with a yellow-cream perianth with red stripes (Jones 1994). It is similar to *C. concinna* and *C. toxochila* but differs in floral morphology and has a distinct distribution (Jones 1994).

## Distribution

*Caladenia amoena* is known from a very restricted distribution near Melbourne; at Plenty Gorge Parklands, Boomers and Wattle Glen in the Victorian Midlands bioregion (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2020). Three collections from the Ballarat-Melbourne region in the 1930s and five collections from the Greensborough-Plenty-Hurstbridge areas from 1996-1998 indicate the species was once more widespread in central Victoria (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020).



Current (black squares) and historic (grey squares) distribution of *Caladenia amoena* in the South Eastern Highlands (shaded dark grey) and Victorian Midlands bioregions (shaded light grey) of Victoria (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DELWP 2020). The western-most extant subpopulation has been augmented, and an introduction has been established with propagated plants and individuals transplanted from Hurstbridge (hollow triangles; Janissen *et al.* 2021).

## Population estimate and trends

*Caladenia amoena* is currently known from <50 mature individuals in three subpopulations. There are six mature individuals at Plenty Gorge Parklands, 26 at Hurstbridge, and a single individual at Boomers Reserve (C Beardsall pers.comm. 2019). In 2000, the species was known from two sites with 45 mature individuals (Todd 2000). One subpopulation was cleared shortly after it was documented (Jones 1994), and time-series monitoring data indicates ongoing declines at all extant subpopulations. Targeted searches have been undertaken at historical collection sites but the species has not been relocated here (Todd 2000).

The Plenty Gorge Parklands subpopulation was augmented with a small number of propagated plants in 2010, but only two emerged in 2019 (Janissen *et al.* 2021). More than 30 plants from the Hurstbridge site were transplanted to Yarrambat north of Plenty Gorge in 2004, but only nine survived in 2019. More than 90 propagated plants were planted at the same site in 2007. Despite some early success, only seven plants remained in 2019 (Janissen *et al.* 2021).



*Caladenia amoena* monitoring data, 2000-2019 (G French and C Beardsall unpublished data; Janissen *et al.* 2021; Todd 2000).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                                                  | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                       | Trend      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 Plenty Gorge Parklands (unreserved public land)                       | 2000: 16<br>2005: 14<br>2007: 17<br>2008: 17<br>2010: 20 (19T)<br>2019: 6 (2T) | Decreasing |
| 2 Hurstbridge (private property)                                        | 2000: 40<br>2005: 100<br>2019: 26                                              | Decreasing |
| 3 Boomers Reserve (conservation reserve)                                | 2019: 1                                                                        | Unknown    |
| 4a (T) Yarrambat – transplanted from Hurstbridge (conservation reserve) | 2004: 35T<br>2005: 37T<br>2019: 9T                                             | Decreasing |
| 4b* (T) Yarrambat – introduction                                        | 2007: 95T<br>2010: 106T<br>2015: 28T<br>2019: 7T                               | Decreasing |

Translocated individuals/subpopulation (T). \*Includes two plantings.

## Habitat and ecology

*Caladenia amoena* grows on ridges and sheltered slopes in dry grassy eucalypt woodlands in shallow clay loams derived from Silurian siltstone (Jones 1994; Todd 2000). Plants emerge annually in early autumn with a single leaf following soaking rains (Todd 2000). Flowering commences in late August, continuing for several weeks depending on climate and pollination (Todd 2000). The pollination of *C. amoena* is not documented, although may occur via pseudocopulation like other species in the genus (Todd 2000). Fruit develop over 5-8 weeks, releasing thousands of wind-dispersed seed by late October (Todd 2000). *Caladenia amoena* becomes dormant over summer as temperatures increase and soils become dry (Todd 2000). The longevity of *C. amoena* is not known, although could be up to 17 years (Carr 1999).

*Caladenia amoena* occurs in habitat with generally low fuel loads and infrequent fires (Todd 2000). Hot summer fires occur in the region that coincide with its period of dormancy (Todd 2000). The optimal time for fires for *C. amoena* is late summer or early autumn, after seed dispersal but prior to shoot growth (Todd 2000). Despite apparent fluctuations in population counts due to differences in emergence and flowering between years, extreme fluctuations (IUCN 2019) are considered unlikely as at least some individuals would persist as non-flowering tubers beneath the soil.

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                               | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 7 km <sup>2</sup> (<1km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                             | Medium      |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 7 km <sup>2</sup> (<1km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                             | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | <50                                    | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                             | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 3 (all threats)                        | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                             | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 3                                      | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                             | High        |
| Generation length             | 5-10 years                             | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                         | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                    | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                 | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                        |
| B1ab(i-v)      | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; and continuing decline observed in AOO, EOO, area/quality of habitat, number of locations/subpopulations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                       |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                     |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                    |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                                      | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                                            | n/a      | n/a        | n/a           | Land clearing for agriculture and urban expansion has resulted in the decline and severe fragmentation of available habitat for the species (Todd 2000).                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Herbivore grazing and trampling (feral and native)<br><i>Suspended</i> | Majority | Slow       | Medium        | <i>Caladenia amoena</i> is vulnerable to defoliation by rabbits while eastern grey kangaroos are in high numbers and have damaged <i>C. amoena</i> in Plenty Gorge Parklands. Most subpopulations are now fenced.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Suspended</i>                                     | Whole    | Slow       | Medium        | All subpopulations of <i>C. amoena</i> are small and invasive weeds are present, which increase competition and alter fuel loads. This may have substantial impacts on recruitment and overall population abundance (Duncan <i>et al.</i> 2005; 2010), however current management is apparently successful against annual weeds (Todd 2000)                                         |
| Climate change<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                       | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | Emergence and flowering both declined with increasing maximum temperature between 2008 and 2019, and flowering was positively correlated with rainfall (Janissen <i>et al.</i> 2021). Climate change predicts increased temperature and decreased rainfall, which will reduce the growing season for the species and result in lower rates of emergence, flowering and recruitment. |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i>                           | Whole    | Negligible | Negligible    | Although fires that occur in late autumn, winter and spring may burn plants before seed-set, the species generally occurs in areas with low fuels loads and infrequent fires (Todd 2000).                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Human disturbance<br><i>Future</i>                                     | Majority | Slow       | Low           | <i>Caladenia amoena</i> is potentially vulnerable to disturbance by mountain bike riders and foot-traffic as it occurs in close proximity to urban areas on land not managed for conservation (Todd 2000).                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Illegal collection<br><i>Future</i>                                    | Whole    | Slow       | Low           | Although there is no direct evidence of illegal collection, <i>C. amoena</i> occurs close to urban areas and may be targeted by orchid enthusiasts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Stochastic events<br><i>Future</i>                                     | Whole    | Rapid      | Medium        | Given the small population and restricted distribution, <i>C. amoena</i> is vulnerable to stochastic events such as successive wildfires, future land management activities or prolonged drought.                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Current management

- The species occurs in Plenty Gorge Parklands, which is partly managed for conservation.
- Fine-scale habitat management has been undertaken at all sites to increase seedling establishment (Wright *et al.* 2009).
- Three translocations have occurred: a small augmentation of propagated plants at Plenty Gorge Parklands, plants transplanted from Hurstbridge to Yarrambat, and introduction of propagated plants to Yarrambat. Despite early success, all translocated subpopulations declined to low numbers by 2019 (Janissen *et al.* 2021; Smith *et al.* 2005; Wright *et al.* 2009).
- An *ex situ* subpopulation was established and used for translocation, although these did not survive (N Reiter pers. comm. 2019).
- Research into the germination requirements and seed viability have been undertaken to optimise the symbiotic germination of the species (N Reiter pers. comm. 2019).

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Increase understanding of the species' biology to inform management actions.
- Increase number of individuals and self-sustaining subpopulations in the wild via threat reduction and translocation.
- Establish *ex situ* subpopulation representing maximum range of genetic diversity for future translocation programs.

## Information required

| Theme                    | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Priority |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys       | Identify and survey potential habitat for additional subpopulations during spring.                                                                                                                                                                      | High     |
|                          | Undertake regular monitoring to determine response to species to management actions and threats.                                                                                                                                                        | High     |
| Life history and ecology | Undertake research to better understand the life history, ecology and germination requirements of the species including, disturbance ecology (fire, herbivory), pollination, seed production and viability, and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |
| Pollination ecology      | Undertake research to identify pollinator(s) and their distribution throughout the habitat of <i>C. amoena</i> . Incorporate understanding of pollinators in selection of potential translocation sites.                                                | High     |
| Habitat requirements     | Identify suitable habitat for future translocations into secure tenure.                                                                                                                                                                                 | High     |
|                          | Undertake research to understand the microsite conditions required by plants for survival and successful recruitment to inform management of translocated sites.                                                                                        | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                  | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Establish <i>ex situ</i> collection for conservation and future translocation programs. Ensure collection represents maximum range of genetic diversity possible. | High     |
|                                            | Collect seed from all remaining individuals for conservation storage and propagation.                                                                             | High     |
|                                            | Propagate large numbers of individuals for translocation into suitable sites.                                                                                     | High     |
| Habitat protection                         | Protect habitat at Plenty Gorge and Wattle Glen in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                                           | High     |
| Invasive weeds                             | Control invasive weeds within known subpopulations and at identified translocation sites.                                                                         | High     |

| Theme                   | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                     | Priority     |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Vertebrate pests        | Manage vertebrate pests to reduce grazing pressure.<br>Maintain exclusion fencing/caging to reduce grazing pressure while individuals are aboveground and flowering. | High<br>High |
| Extension and awareness | Raise awareness of species with relevant stakeholders in attempts to locate additional subpopulations.                                                               | Medium       |

## Experts consulted

Noushka Reiter, Meg Cullen, Cam Beardsall, Garry French, Brendan Janissen and the *Caladenia amoena* Recovery Team.

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## *Caladenia busselliana* Hopper & A.P.Brown [ORCHIDACEAE] Bussell's spider-orchid



Flowers of one of the last remaining wild *Caladenia busselliana* plants (left) and green leaf (photosynthetic) stage of symbiotic *ex situ* germination (right; images: Belinda Davis).

### Overview

*Caladenia busselliana* is known from three small subpopulations within a heavily fragmented and urbanising landscape. Although the subpopulations are protected in reserves they are declining due to invasive weeds, habitat disturbance (Hopper and Brown 2001), illegal collection and lack of recruitment. Further research is needed to understand the life history, mycorrhizal associations, pollination and limitations to recruitment. Recovery will involve continued habitat protection, monitoring and heavy investment from orchid specialists in research and translocation.

### Conservation status

|                                                                      |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered            |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Critically Endangered |

### Brief description

Terrestrial ground-orchid occurring singly or in loose clumps (Paten *et al.* 2008). Bears a single, linear, erect and hairy leaf that often has irregular red-purple blotches towards the base. Inflorescence 20-30 cm tall with 1-3 creamy-yellow flowers 5-8 cm across with a 3-lobed labellum occasionally with pink-red radiating stripes and calli in four rows. Flowers are similar to *C. viridescens* and *C. paludosa*, but are paler-yellow with an entirely yellow labellum that is broader and longer, and with narrower sepal clubs (Hoffman and Brown 1998; Hopper and Brown 2001). The taxon is part of a complex and is difficult to distinguish based on genetic markers investigated to date, but has a distinct distribution (H Zimmer pers.comm. 2020).

### Distribution

*Caladenia busselliana* is currently known from a very narrow geographic range between Vasse and Yallingup in the Swan Coastal Plain bioregion of south-western Western Australia (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020).





Current black polygon; encompasses extant subpopulations and historic (grey square) distribution of *Caladenia busselliana* in the Swan Coastal Plain bioregion (shaded grey) of Western Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Caladenia busselliana* is currently known from four subpopulations comprising <50 individuals (DBCA 2020). The species was first recorded in 1954 at an orchid show from an unknown location (Patten *et al.* 2008). Surveys in 1990 found more than 100 plants in three subpopulations (Patten *et al.* 2008), but the largest of these is now presumed extinct. Monitoring at the two other subpopulations from 1991–2019 indicates the total number of flowering mature individuals has fluctuated between 2 and 63 plants, but has declined overall (Patten *et al.* 2008; DBCA 2020). An additional subpopulation of one individual was located in 2014, and another in 2019 that contained 3 individuals (DBCA 2020). One subpopulation was augmented with 140 seedlings in 2020, although it is too early to determine survivorship (T Llorens pers.comm. 2020). Targeted surveys have been conducted across the range of the species and it is unlikely additional subpopulations exist.

## Habitat and ecology

*Caladenia busselliana* occurs on the margins of winter-wet swamps in grey, sandy loams with scattered limestone over clays (Paten *et al.* 2008). Associated species include *Eucalyptus marginata*, *E. calophylla*, *Xanthorrhoea preissii*, *Acacia pulchella*, *Hibbertia hypericoides*, *Hypocalymma robusta*, *Mesomelaena tetragona*, *Patersonia umbrosa* var. *xanthina*, *Agonis flexuosa*, *Anigozanthos manglesii* and *A. viridis* (Paten *et al.* 2008). The species also occurs alongside several other *Caladenia* spp. including *C. paludosa*, *C. procera*, *C. viridescens*, *C. flava* and *C. latifolia*, and hybrids with *C. viridescens* have been observed (Department of the Environment 2013).

*Caladenia busselliana* emerges from a dormant tuber following soaking autumn rains (Paten *et al.* 2008). Flowering occurs from mid-September to November, but depends on environmental conditions and may not occur every year (Paten *et al.* 2008). If flowers are pollinated, a capsule with up to 34 000 seeds will develop over 4–6 weeks (B Davis pers.comm. 2020). Seed germination and seedling establishment depends on mycorrhizal fungi associations (B Davis pers.comm. 2020). Over summer, the plants persist dormant underground (Paten *et al.* 2008). *Caladenia busselliana* reaches maturity at 2–3 years, and is probably long-lived, as other species in the genus survive for 20 to 40+ years (B Davis pers.comm. 2020). Generation length is estimated as >10 years. Despite apparent fluctuations due to differences in emergence and flowering between years, extreme fluctuations (IUCN 2019) are unlikely as at least some individuals persist as non-flowering tubers beneath the soil.

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                  | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 13 km <sup>2</sup>                        | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 12 km <sup>2</sup> (0.1 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | <50                                       | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 4 (lack of recruitment)                   | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 4                                         | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| Generation length             | >10 years                                 | Medium      |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                            | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                       | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                    | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                 |
| B1ab(i-v)      | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; and continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                             |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                     | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>           | n/a   | n/a      | n/a           | Land clearing for urbanisation and agriculture has resulted in the decline and severe fragmentation of available habitat for the species. All subpopulations are in Crown reserves or on private property that are not vested for conservation purposes, and urbanisation and associated impacts are increasing in the region.                                                                                                                            |
| Lack of recruitment<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole | Rapid    | High          | The population is declining and only minimal recruitment is occurring at all sites. This may be due to lack of pollinators, herbivory of both seed capsules and recruiting plants, an absence/patchy distribution of mycorrhizal fungi, soil compaction around parent plants due to trampling and climatic changes (Paten <i>et al.</i> 2008). As these threats can possibly be managed at the subpopulation scale, the species occurs at four locations. |

|                                              |          |         |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Human activity<br><i>Ongoing</i>             | Whole    | Rapid   | High    | Although most subpopulations occur in reserves, the region is rapidly urbanising and bushland is subject to associated threats including weed invasion, recreational impacts and heavy visitation. Rubbish dumping has occurred at one site, but vehicle access is now prevented. One subpopulation is highly visited by orchid enthusiasts and this has caused serious damage to plants and their habitat. Plants have been illegally taken from one subpopulation. |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Majority | Rapid   | Medium  | Part of one subpopulation occurs on a road verge and is vulnerable to infrastructure maintenance including grading, chemical spraying, drainage channel construction and slashing. Another subpopulation is adjacent to a powerline and telecommunications line that are regularly maintained.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>             | Whole    | Slow    | Medium  | Invasive weeds are present at all subpopulations and increase competition and alter fuel loads and thus fire regimes. Invasive weed control has been undertaken and needs to be continued.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Grazing<br><i>Ongoing</i>                    | Majority | Slow    | Medium  | Quendas are known to disturb plants when digging for tubers. Rabbits may also disturb habitat and cause plant mortality via defoliation and burrow construction. Some subpopulations have been fenced to exclude grazing/foraging.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Unknown | Unknown | Many ground orchids flower more profusely after fire and may become outcompeted by other vegetation with a lack of fire, but fires that occur within the first 2 years of recruitment or when plants are actively-growing can kill plants. The optimum timing for fire is between December and March while <i>C. busselliana</i> is dormant.                                                                                                                         |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Ongoing</i>       | Whole    | Slow    | Low     | Some species in the habitat are vulnerable to phytophthora <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> and marri canker <i>Quambalaria coyrecup</i> , which can cause a decline in habitat condition, with potential impacts on <i>C. busselliana</i> and its pollinators (A Webb, B Davis pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (Patten *et al.* 2008), including fencing, weed control, seed collection, and research into mycorrhizal fungi, pollinators, germination requirements and fire ecology.
- Seed and mycorrhizal strains have been collected from wild individuals and are held in long-term storage at the Western Australian Seed Centre at Kings Park. Seed has been collected from 11 individuals over all extant subpopulations and from one unknown location, with germination success ranging from 70% to 95% where testing has been performed. Multiple mycorrhizal isolates have been collected from four wild plants across three subpopulations and from one nursery plant. Testing for fungal efficacy has shown isolates promote between 20% and >80% germination (B Davis pers.comm. 2020).
- A germination protocol has been established for *C. busselliana* and an *ex situ* collection of approximately 100 plants has been propagated at the Kings Park Science Laboratory to create a seed and fungal orchard for conservation purposes and to provide additional plants to augment wild populations (B Davis pers.comm. 2020).
- One subpopulation was augmented with 140 seedlings in 2020, another 400 dormant plants will be translocated in summer 2020, with additional plantings to follow in winter 2021 (B Davis pers.comm. 2020).

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Increase habitat quality at all sites in an attempt to promote and sustain natural recruitment.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via augmentation of existing subpopulations and introduction to secure tenure.
- Protect additional suitable habitat in appropriate conservation agreements.

### Information required

| Theme                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Taxonomy                   | Undertake further studies with target sequence capture to define species complexes within this clade and obtain insights into the role of hybridisation in this group, and to increase understanding of species delimitation.         | High     |
| Population surveys         | Monitor known subpopulations to better understand threats and response to ongoing recovery actions.                                                                                                                                   | High     |
| Life history and ecology   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |
| Lack of recruitment        | Undertake research to better understand the mechanisms that limit recruitment, and management actions that can be implemented to increase recruitment.                                                                                | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes | Undertake research to better understand the disturbance ecology of the species, particularly in relation to fire. Determine a suitable fire regime for the species to increase the number of mature individuals.                      | High     |

### Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                            | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat quality                            | Maintain invasive weed control and herbivore exclusion fences to reduce grazing impacts.                                    | High     |
|                                            | Increase habitat quality for pollinators.                                                                                   | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Maintain and expand <i>ex situ</i> collection ensuring maximum range of genetic diversity possible is represented.          | High     |
|                                            | Implement translocations into suitable habitat on secure tenure, including ongoing augmentation of existing subpopulations. | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Implement appropriate fire regime to maximise the number of mature individuals and reproductive capacity.                   | High     |
| Habitat protection                         | Protect known habitat of species in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                    | High     |

## Experts consulted

Andrew Webb, Ben Lullfitz, Natasha Moore, Belinda Davis and Tanya Llorens.

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## *Caladenia luteola* Hopper & A.P.Brown [ORCHIDACEAE] Lemon spider-orchid



*Caladenia luteola* flower (left) and habit (right; images: Jeremy Storey).

### Overview

*Caladenia luteola* occurs in the heavily modified Avon Wheatbelt region of south-western Western Australia. The three known subpopulations have been declining for decades due to poor habitat condition, salinity and invasive weeds. Recovery efforts depend on ongoing monitoring, habitat protection and restoration, and establishment of an *ex situ* collection for future translocation.

### Conservation status

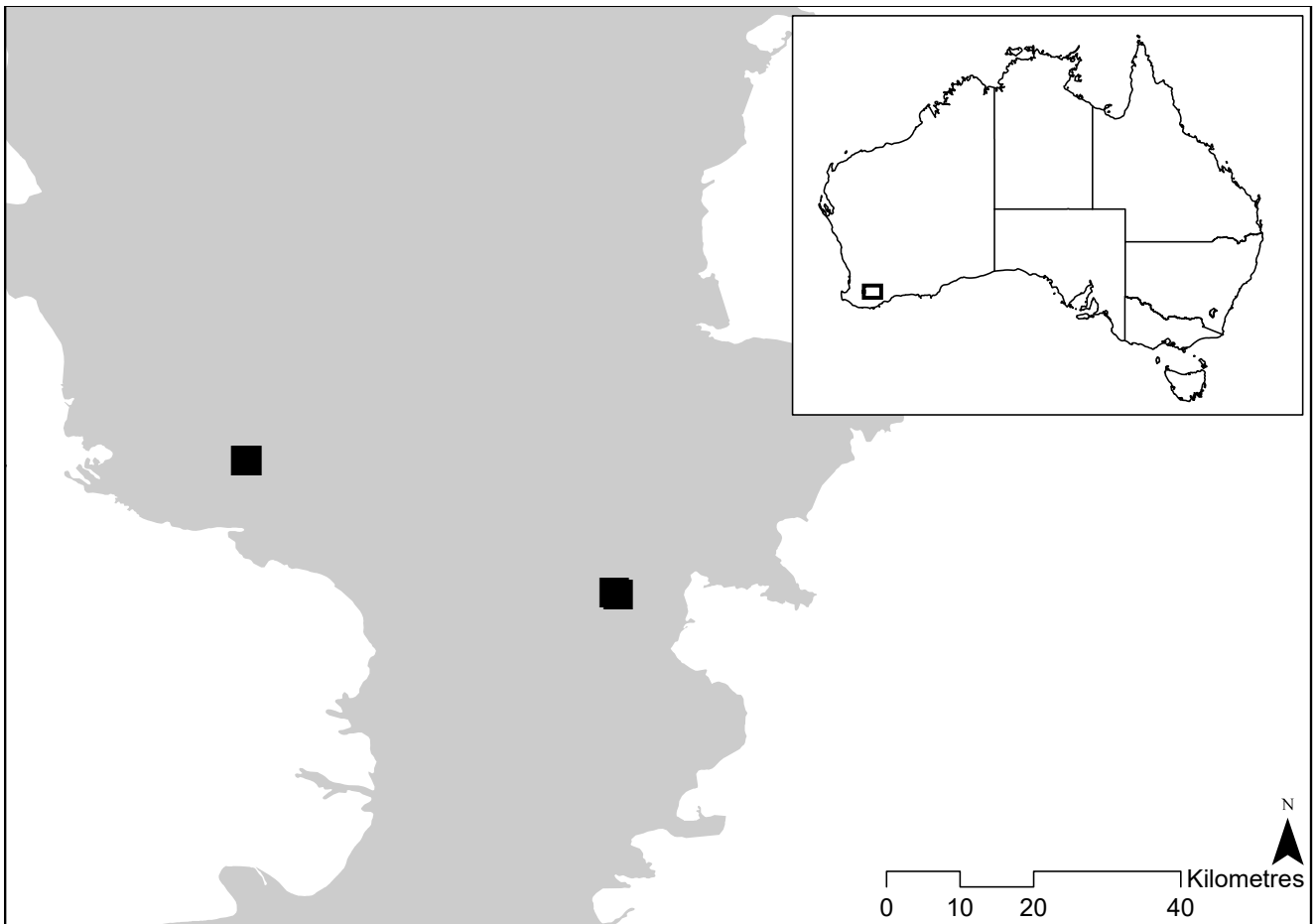
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Herbaceous perennial geophyte occurring singly or in clumps (Hopper and Brown 2001). Each plant has a single linear leaf 8-20 cm long and 3-5 mm wide with red-purple blotches at the base. Inflorescence 15-30 cm tall with 1-2 yellow-cream flowers 6-9 cm across with maroon-brown stripes. Labellum obscurely 3-lobed with entire margins and calli in 6-11 pairs. *Caladenia luteola* is similar to *C. caesarea*, *C. elegans* and *C. xantha*, but is distinguished by its paler-yellow-cream flowers, stiff obliquely descending lateral sepal apices, later flowering season and larger flowers (Hopper and Brown 2001).

### Distribution

*Caladenia luteola* is known from a very narrow range near Woodanilling and Katanning in the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion of south-western Western Australia (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020).



Current distribution (black squares) of *Caladenia luteola* in the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion (shaded grey) of Western Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020). Note the two eastern subpopulations occur close together.

## Population estimate and trends

*Caladenia luteola* is currently known from three subpopulations with 127 mature individuals (DBCA 2020). When the species was first collected at Woodanilling in 1985, it was known from >50 mature individuals (AVH 2020; Department of Parks and Wildlife 2016). Surveys from 2012-2015 located an additional subpopulation, while extending a known subpopulation with 32 individuals (DPW 2016). Both subpopulations at Woodanilling declined to zero plants by 2019, and the only mature individuals persist at Katanning. Monitoring, including repeated transects since 2011, has been conducted at the known sites. Subsequent targeted surveys have failed to locate additional subpopulations, although the plants may re-emerge at Woodanilling.

*Caladenia luteola* monitoring data, 1985-2019 (DBCA 2020; DPW 2016).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                                              | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                       | Trend                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1 Woodanilling (unmanaged road reserve)                             | 1985: 50<br>2011: 6<br>2013: 1<br>2014: 0<br>2019: 0                                                           | Decreasing                                 |
| 6 Katanning (unmanaged water reserve and adjacent private property) | 2009: 50<br>2011: 216<br>2012: 213*<br>2014: 179<br>2015: 70<br>2016: 233<br>2017: 22<br>2018: 68<br>2019: 127 | Fluctuating depending on seasonal rainfall |
| 7 Woodanilling (private property)                                   | 2014: 1<br>2016: 25<br>2017: 0<br>2018: 3<br>2019: 0                                                           | Decreasing                                 |

\* From 2012 includes additional plants recorded on adjacent private property (32 plants in 2012).

## Habitat and ecology

*Caladenia luteola* occurs in sand and sandy clays amongst dense herbs in open woodland of *Eucalyptus wandoo*, *E. longicornis*, *Allocasuarina huegeliana* and *Acacia acuminata* (DPW 2016). Flowering occurs from September to early October and fruits mature by late November (DPW 2016). On rare occasions *C. luteola* can hybridise with *C. caesarea* subsp. *caesarea* (Hopper and Brown 2001). Less flowering occurs in years of poor rainfall (DPW 2016). The species can reproduce in the absence of disturbance and mycorrhizal fungi are required for seed germination (Swarts *et al.* 2010). Generation length is not precisely known, but other species in the genus may live to up to 40 years (see *C. busselliana* profile). Seedbank dynamics of the species are unknown, although *C. luteola* is a relatively long-lived perennial whose plants can survive disturbance such as fire, and therefore extreme fluctuations are not likely.

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                  | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 26 km <sup>2</sup>                        | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 8 km <sup>2</sup> (0.01 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 127                                       | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 3 (lack of recruitment)                   | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 3                                         | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| Generation length             | >10 years                                 | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                            | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                       | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                    | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                                           |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; and continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(ii)        | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and 90-100% (98%) of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                                                              |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                            | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                  | n/a      | n/a      | n/a           | Land clearing, mainly for agriculture, has resulted in the decline and severe fragmentation of the species. The three subpopulations of <i>C. luteola</i> occur in tiny remnants in two general areas separated by 47 km of heavily cleared land.                                       |
| Lack of recruitment<br><i>Ongoing</i>        | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | Recruitment is minimal at two of three subpopulations and low fruit set has been observed. A long-term trend of declining rainfall is suspected to contribute to this threat (DPW 2016).                                                                                                |
| Altered hydrology<br><i>Ongoing</i>          | Minority | Rapid    | Medium        | The Woodanilling reserve subpopulation occurs in habitat that is becoming increasingly saline, and on creeklines subject to inundation and therefore exposed to saline run-off (DPW 2016). Changes to groundwater levels are a potential future threat to the other two subpopulations. |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Majority | Rapid    | Medium        | Two sites are vulnerable to road maintenance activities, especially road widening and drainage maintenance (DPW 2016).                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Grazing (feral and native)<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Minority | Slow     | Low           | Grazing by rabbits and macropods has been observed at one subpopulation (DPW 2016).                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>             | Minority | Slow     | Low           | Invasive weeds are currently restricted to creeks and margins of Woodanilling Reserve and are considered a future threat at the other two subpopulations (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2018).                                                                                |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Unknown  | Unknown       | Fires that occur during the active growing and reproductive period of the species (winter-spring) may limit recruitment and kill plants. Disturbance is not required for flowering to occur (DPW 2016).                                                                                 |
| Climate change<br><i>Ongoing</i>             | Whole    | Slow     | Low           | Flowering occurs at lower rates in years where rainfall is poor (DPW 2016). Given the trend of climatic drying in the region (Hope <i>et al.</i> 2015), flowering rates and therefore recruitment may continue to decline.                                                              |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (DPW 2016; TSSC 2018).
- The species is not protected in conservation reserves.
- Seed has been collected from two wild individuals at the Woodanilling road reserve and is held in long term storage at the Western Australian Seed Centre and the Millennium Seed Bank. No mycorrhizal strains are currently held in the collection. The germinability of the stored seed is unknown.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Protect habitat of known subpopulations in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Establish an *ex situ* conservation collection to support future translocation efforts.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild by improving habitat quality and implementing translocations (augmentation and introductions).

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Taxonomy                                   | Undertake further genetic analysis of the <i>C. caesarea</i> - <i>C. luteola</i> species complex.                                                                                                                                     | High     |
| Population surveys                         | Monitor response of species to threats and recovery actions.                                                                                                                                                                          | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Identify methods to successfully propagate the species <i>ex situ</i> , including seed germination trials, isolating mycorrhizal fungi and pollinator studies.                                                                        | High     |
| Altered hydrology                          | Undertake research to better understand the potential impacts of salinity on the species, including the role of changes to groundwater levels.                                                                                        | High     |
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Determine a suitable fire regime for the species to increase the number of mature individuals.                                                                                                                                        | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                       | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Establish <i>ex situ</i> collection representing maximum range of genetic diversity possible.                                          | High     |
|                                            | Undertake translocations (if feasible) by augmenting wild subpopulations and introducing species to suitable habitat on secure tenure. | High     |
| Habitat protection and restoration         | Protect known sites and potential habitat in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                      | High     |
|                                            | Undertake weed control and manage fire to protect the species and maintain habitat condition.                                          | High     |
| Infrastructure maintenance                 | Protect subpopulation near roadside from road maintenance activities via extension and awareness, marking the area, or fencing.        | High     |



## Experts consulted

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## *Caladenia pumila* R.S.Rogers [ORCHIDACEAE] Dwarf spider-orchid



*Caladenia pumila* flowering (image: Neil Anderton).

### Overview

*Caladenia pumila* is known from two individuals in the heavily cleared landscape southwest of Melbourne. It was previously 'locally common' but not seen between 1926 and 2009 when it was relocated. There is no natural recruitment occurring within the population despite intensive ongoing management. *Ex situ* conservation at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria has been successful, with approximately 100 seedlings and 11 mature individuals propagated from seed with a long-term view to translocation.

### Conservation status

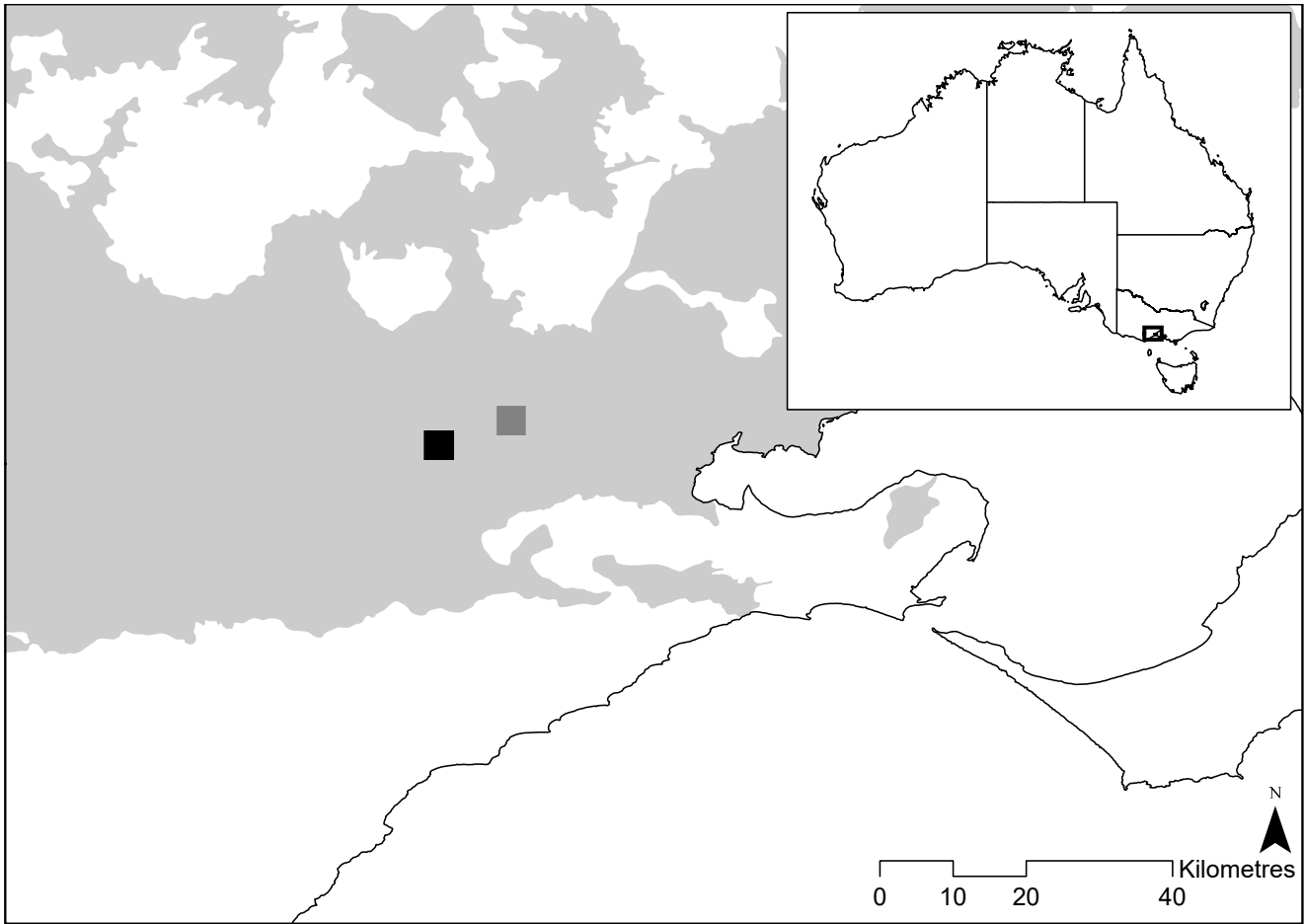
|                                                                      |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered |
| <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>                            | Threatened            |
| Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria               | Endangered            |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Critically Endangered |

### Brief description

Deciduous, perennial geophyte 10-15 cm tall, with a single, lanceolate, fleshy, hairy, basal leaf 6-8 cm long and 5-15 mm wide (Rogers 1922; Entwisle 1994). Bears a single flower 50-60 mm across, with white petals and a pink labellum. Sepals and petals to 40 mm long with a broad base and deflexed tips. Petals taper to a short tail and sepals taper to an indistinct green club. Dorsal sepal erect, lateral sepals spreading. Labellum 17 mm long and 8 mm wide, margins entire except a few irregular teeth at the base of the mid-lobe, upper surface with 4-6 rows of short, widely-spaced calli (Rogers 1922; Entwisle 1994). *Caladenia pumila* is distinguished from other *Caladenia* species by its short stature, single white-pink flower, nearly entire labellum margins on half of the labellum and short sepal clubs (Rogers 1922; Entwisle 1994). However, clubbing is variable and sometimes absent, as in all propagated individuals perhaps due to inbreeding (N Reiter pers.comm. 2020).

## Distribution

*Caladenia pumila* is only known from the Bannockburn area ca. 25 km northwest of Geelong in the Southern Volcanic Plain bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2020).



Current (black square) and historic (grey square) distribution of *Caladenia pumila* near Bannockburn in the Southern Volcanic Plain bioregion (shaded grey) of Victoria (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DELWP 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Caladenia pumila* is currently known from two mature individuals. Once 'locally common' in the Bannockburn region, *C. pumila* was not seen after 1926 until it was relocated in a nearby reserve in 2009 by community members (Duncan 2015). Despite searching, the species has not been detected at Bannockburn or other suitable habitat. Although further searching is warranted given the species can persist undetected as a tuber for successive years, it is unlikely additional large subpopulations of the species persist (Duncan 2015).

## Habitat and ecology

*Caladenia pumila* occurs in open, grassy, herb-rich woodlands on moist flats and hillslopes in grey sandy loam soils (Backhouse 2011). Associated species include *Acacia paradoxa*, *Arthropodium strictum*, *Chamaescilla corymbosa*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Dillwynia hispida*, *Diuris chryseopsis*, *Drosera aberrans*, *Glycine latrobeana*, *Goodenia geniculata*, *Kennedia prostrata*, *Microleana stipoides*, *Pimelea humilis*, *Stackhousia momhyana*, *Themeda triandra* and *Wurmbea dioica* (Duncan 2015).

*Caladenia pumila* emerges annually from a spherical, subterranean tuber covered in a tough, fibrous sheath. After a period of dormancy in summer, the basal leaf emerges in winter following soaking autumn rains. During the growing season, the tuber is replaced by a 'daughter' tuber and flowers appear from September. The pollination strategy of *C. pumila* is unknown and could be either food-rewarding, food-deceptive or sexually-deceptive, as *Caladenia* spp. are known to have multiple pollination strategies (e.g. Stoutamire 1983; Phillips and Peakall 2018; Reiter *et al.* 2018a, 2019). Seed production depends on the presence of pollinators, receptiveness of the stigma to pollen and climate.

Pollinated flowers mature into a capsule over 5-8 weeks, each containing thousands of microscopic wind-dispersed seeds (Duncan 2015). Mycorrhizal fungi (*Serendipita* OTUA) are essential for growth and seed germination in *C. pumila* (Reiter *et al.* 2020).

The longevity of *C. pumila* under ideal conditions is not known, but *C. hastata* can survive for 17 years (Carr 1999) and *C. rosella* plants at least 30 years (C Beardsell pers.comm. 2014). Strong flowering responses after fire have been observed in several *Caladenia* spp., although fires must occur after seed dispersal but prior to new shoot growth (i.e. summer to early autumn). Lack of disturbance especially fire and poor rainfall can cause prolonged dormancy that is associated with premature plant death (Coates and Duncan 2008). Seedbank dynamics of the species are unknown, although *C. pumila* is a relatively long-lived perennial that can survive disturbance such as fire, and therefore extreme fluctuations are not likely.

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                     | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.0001 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                   | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.0001 km <sup>2</sup> )  | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                   | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (lack of recruitment)                      | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                   | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 1                                            | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                   | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 2                                            | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                   | High        |
| Generation length             | 10 years                                     | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                               | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                          | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                       | High        |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                      |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; continuing decline observed and projected in AOO, EOO, quality of habitat, number of locations and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                     |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                  |

### Threats

| Threat and timing                             | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss and fragmentation<br><i>Past</i> | n/a   | n/a      | n/a           | Extensive land clearing for urbanisation and agriculture has occurred throughout the habitat of <i>C. pumila</i> . The species occurs within the Critically Endangered Natural Temperate Grassland and Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain ecosystem, of which <5% remains. The species is severely fragmented as most habitat remnants are small (<10 ha), with ongoing degradation and impaired ecosystem function (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2008). |

| Threat and timing                                      | Scope | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Herbivory/ soil disturbance<br><i>Suspended</i>        | Whole | Rapid      | Medium        | Rabbits, hares, echidnas, macropods and possums have been observed browsing/digging near <i>C. pumila</i> , and are known to impact other species in the genus. Known individuals and habitat have been caged and fenced, but any additional plants may be browsed or disturbed before they are detected and fenced. Invertebrate eggs have been observed on <i>C. pumila</i> capsules, but their impact is unknown (N Anderton pers.comm. in Duncan 2015).                               |
| Lack of recruitment<br><i>Ongoing</i>                  | Whole | Very rapid | High          | Since the species was relocated in 2009, no recruitment has been observed despite intensive management (Duncan 2015). No seed drop has occurred since 2009 due to irregular flowering and seed collection for propagation (N Reiter pers.comm. 2020). Seed is mostly sterile, with germination trials showing viability of 0.1% (N Reiter pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                               |
| Poor genetic diversity<br><i>Ongoing</i>               | Whole | Rapid      | High          | Given there are only two extant individuals known, <i>C. pumila</i> probably has a severely reduced genetic base. The species only produces one flower per year and only one of the two individuals flowered from 2011-2013 (Duncan 2015). As of 2015, only six seedpods had been produced (Duncan 2015) and most seed is sterile (N Reiter pers.comm. 2020). Poor genetic diversity can decrease resilience to environmental change.                                                     |
| Invasive weeds/ vegetation change<br><i>Ongoing</i>    | Whole | Slow       | Medium        | <i>Caladenia pumila</i> inhabits open areas where encroachment by native vegetation, particularly hedge wattle <i>Acacia paradoxa</i> is occurring (Duncan 2015). This pioneer species has potential to alter the open vegetation structure of the area, which can cause declines in grassland orchids (Todd 2000). The habitat of the species is also vulnerable to invasion by perennial grasses that may increase competition, and alter fuel loads and thus fire regimes (Todd 2000). |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i>           | Whole | Unknown    | Unknown       | As with other species in the genus, fires in late spring to autumn during the growing season are likely to have negative population effects (Todd 2000). Successive fires during this time can limit reproduction and may cause plant death, while the absence of fire may contribute to lack of recruitment (Coates and Duncan 2009; Duncan 2015; Todd 2000). Local knowledge indicates there have been no fires at the site since at least 1950 (N Anderton pers.comm. 2020).           |
| Illegal collection<br><i>Future</i>                    | Whole | Very rapid | Medium        | <i>Caladenia pumila</i> is a very rare, charismatic species, and is vulnerable to illegal collection by orchid enthusiasts (Duncan 2015), especially as the location is well-documented. Individuals that have not yet been detected by threatened species managers are also vulnerable to collection.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Recreational activities<br><i>Suspended and future</i> | Whole | Rapid      | Medium        | The reserve where <i>C. pumila</i> occurs is close to suburbia and used regularly by bushwalkers, campers, trail bike riders and 4WD vehicles (Duncan 2015). The habitat has been fenced, but incursions are possible in the future.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |



## Current management

- A Recovery Team of government and non-government partners was established in 2011. Recovery actions have been identified in an action statement (Duncan 2015) and implemented, including monitoring three times per annum, a sign erected to deter illegal collection, and stakeholder engagement to raise awareness of the species.
- An *ex situ* conservation program commenced in 2009 at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria; both flowers were cross-pollinated by hand in 2009 and 2010, seed from wild plants was collected (2009-2014), germination techniques have been identified including isolation of mycorrhizal fungi (2009) and propagation is ongoing, with 11 individuals successfully propagated by 2013.
- Measures to protect the extant plants and improve habitat quality have been implemented, including caging to prevent herbivory (2009) and fencing of the broader area to reduce grazing pressure and risk of damage by recreation (2010). The fenced area will be doubled in 2021 to approximately two hectares. Manual removal of hedge wattle to maintain the open grassland vegetation commenced in 2011. Controlled grazing under a browsing management plan occurs within exclosures while the plants are dormant to reduce biomass/competition of native vegetation. Hand cutting of vegetation is ongoing. Rabbit control is ongoing throughout the reserve (Duncan 2015). Biomass density is assessed annually (N Anderton pers.comm. 2020).

## Conservation objectives

- Maintain current management activities and adapt in accordance with latest research.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via further survey (detect additional individuals), augmentation of known subpopulation and translocation to other secure tenure to reduce extinction risk.
- Increase knowledge of species' biology and ecology to inform management requirements.
- Secure additional suitable habitat in conservation agreements.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the seed production and viability of the species.                                                                                                                                                                             | High     |
|                                            | Undertake research to determine the role of vegetation competition, disturbance and herbivory on the longevity of the species.                                                                                                                                        | High     |
|                                            | Determine limitations to recruitment in the naturally occurring subpopulation. Determine micro-habitat requirements of the species for successful seed germination, growth and reproduction.                                                                          | High     |
|                                            | Identify pollination mechanism and pollinator(s) of the species, along with their presence at any potential translocation site and their ecological requirements.                                                                                                     | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Identify sites of suitable habitat with secure tenure that have other <i>Caladenia</i> spp. present that share <i>Serendipita</i> OTUA (Reiter <i>et al.</i> 2020) and the pollinator present for establishing translocated populations (Reiter <i>et al.</i> 2018b). | High     |
|                                            | Identify fine-scale habitat requirements in preparation for translocation.                                                                                                                                                                                            | High     |
| Population surveys                         | Monitor response of subpopulations to threats and management actions.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | High     |
|                                            | Undertake targeted surveys in other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations, particularly after disturbance.                                                                                                                                             | Medium   |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Priority             |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Maintain propagation program ensuring maximum range of genetic diversity possible is captured, with view to implement translocations (augmentation, introductions).<br>Develop and implement translocation plan.<br>Reinforce wild subpopulations with propagated individuals to increase population abundance, and implement translocations to secure suitable habitat.                                    | High<br>High<br>High |
| Habitat protection                         | Protect habitat of the species on private land in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | High                 |
| Habitat quality                            | Develop and implement fire management strategy for the species.<br>Maintain management of invasive weeds and vertebrate pests nearby individuals of <i>C. pumila</i> , and also in wider areas of suitable habitat where individuals may persist as dormant plants.<br>Continue micro-habitat management in accordance with current research (e.g. hand-cutting dense vegetation, watering during drought). | High<br>High<br>High |
| Recreational activities                    | Divert recreational activities from areas of the reserve where known and potential habitat for <i>C. pumila</i> occurs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | High                 |
| Illegal collection                         | Install camera surveillance and a locked gate to deter illegal collection.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | High                 |
| Extension and awareness                    | Maintain engagement with relevant landholders that are custodians of the species. Raise awareness with other stakeholders in the area in an attempt to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Medium               |

## Experts consulted

Noushka Reiter and Neil Anderton.

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## *Calochilus richiae* Nicholls [ORCHIDACEAE] Bald-tip beard orchid



*Calochilus richiae* flower (image: Jeff Jeanes, State Botanical Collection, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria).

### Overview

*Calochilus richiae* is one of Australia's rarest orchids, known from a single, declining population of <10 mature individuals. Recovery actions have been implemented including fencing to exclude herbivores, *ex situ* propagation and hand-watering during dry periods. The population remains vulnerable to grazing and illegal collection by orchid enthusiasts, and further *in situ* recovery options are limited.

### Conservation status

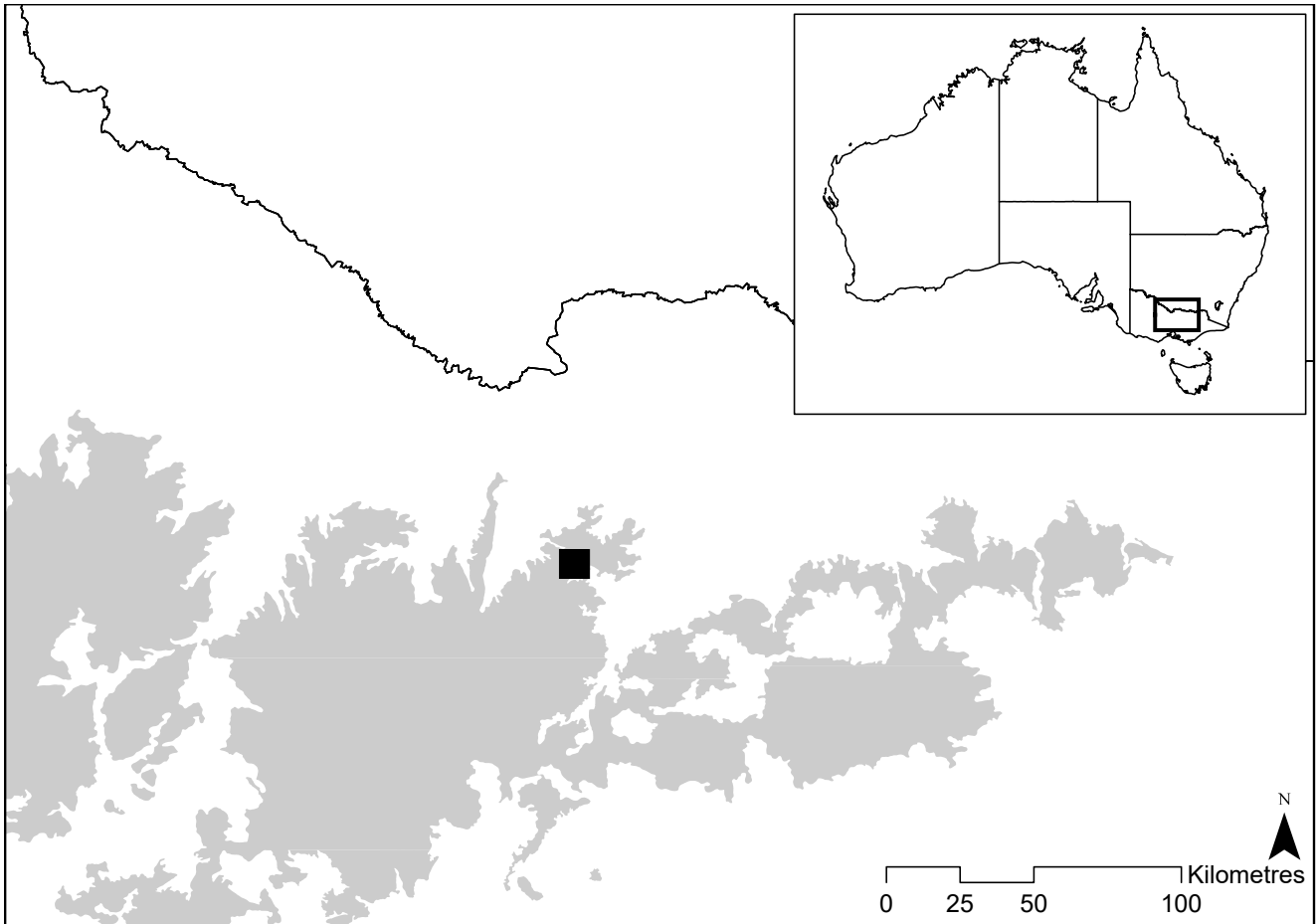
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>                            | Threatened                         |
| Advisory List of Rare and Threatened Plants in Victoria              | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Terrestrial, perennial herb with a single, dark-green leaf emerging annually from a subterranean tuber. Inflorescence to 35 cm with up to five yellow-green flowers with red-brown stripes on an open raceme. Labellum ovate, covered with short purple calli on the basal two-thirds and a glabrous, curved apex (Entwisle 1994). There is low genetic divergence and unclear species delimitation to closely-related taxa including *C. robertsonii* and *C. platytilus*, however it is morphologically distinct due to labellum calli (H Zimmer pers.comm. 2020).

## Distribution

*Calochilus richiae* is known from a single site near Rushworth in north-central Victoria in the Victorian Midlands bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2020). There is no evidence that the species was formerly more widespread, and it is not considered severely fragmented (IUCN 2019).



Current distribution (black square) of *Calochilus richiae* in the Victorian Midlands bioregion (shaded grey) of Victoria (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DELWP 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Calochilus richiae* was first collected in 1928 but not seen again until 1968 when the currently known subpopulation was relocated (AVH 2020; DELWP 2020; Duncan 2010). Twenty-three individuals were present in 1980, which declined rapidly to six in 1988 and only four individuals have been seen since 1988 (Duncan 2010). Some targeted surveys have been undertaken and additional subpopulations have not been located.

*Calochilus richiae* monitoring data, 1968-2010 (Duncan 2010).

| Subpopulation (tenure)             | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                 | Trend      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 Rushworth (conservation reserve) | 1968: present<br>1980: 23<br>1981: 21<br>1984: 12<br>1988: 6<br>1995: 6<br>1996: 1<br>1998: 4<br>2000: 4 | Decreasing |



## Habitat and ecology

*Calochilus richiae* occurs in dry heathy forest on shallow stony clay loams over Devonian sandstone and interbedded siltstone (Duncan 2010). The habitat is dominated by *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* and *E. polyanthemus* with a shrubby understorey of *Acacia pycnantha*, *A. paradoxa*, *Leucopogon virgatus*, *Daviesia ulicifolia*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Grevillea alpina*, *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Cassinia sifton* and *Xanthorrhoea australis*. The sparse ground layer is dominated by *Rytidosperma pallidum* (Duncan 2010).

Little is known of the species biology and ecology. *Calochilus richiae* is a deciduous geophyte that emerges annually from late spring, typically after soaking rains (Duncan 2010). Flowering is brief and occurs in October. Pollination is via sexual deception of male scollid wasps (Duncan 2010). Fruits develop over 5-8 weeks with each capsule containing thousands of wind-dispersed seeds (Duncan 2010).

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                   | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.01 km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.01 km <sup>2</sup> )  | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | <10                                        | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (all threats)                            | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 1                                          | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| Generation length             | Unknown                                    | n/a         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                             | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | No                                         | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                     | High        |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                                     |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; 1 location; and continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i,ii)      | CR: <250 mature individuals, continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                                    |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                        | Scope | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Extractive industry<br><i>Past</i>                       | n/a   | n/a        | n/a           | Gold mining was present in the habitat of this species for many years (Duncan 2010).                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Timber harvesting<br><i>Past</i>                         | n/a   | n/a        | n/a           | The only known subpopulation occurs in former state forest (now a conservation reserve) where timber harvesting caused habitat change and disturbance (Duncan 2010).                                                                                                                                               |
| Herbivore grazing (native)<br><i>Suspended</i>           | Whole | Rapid      | Medium        | <i>Calochilus richiae</i> is vulnerable to grazing by macropods. In 1989, six of the 11 maturing seed capsules were eaten, and in 2004, two of four plants were defoliated (Duncan 2010). The subpopulation is now fenced.                                                                                         |
| Illegal collection and human trampling<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole | Rapid      | High          | There is anecdotal evidence that ~12 individuals were collected in the early 1980s. During one season, a local enthusiast removed all flowering stems to discourage collection. The location is well-known by orchid enthusiasts, who threaten the population with illegal collection and trampling (Duncan 2010). |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                         | Whole | Negligible | Negligible    | Invasive weeds are not prevalent in this habitat and are considered a minor threat to the species (Duncan 2010).                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>                          | Whole | Slow       | Medium        | Prolonged drought is thought to be causing premature abortion of flowers and overall lower recruitment (Duncan 2010).                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Stochastic events<br><i>Future</i>                       | Whole | Very rapid | Medium        | The restricted range and small population size render <i>C. richiae</i> vulnerable to stochastic events.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified in the recovery plan (Duncan 2010).
- The species protected within a conservation reserve.
- By 2003, the site was fenced, seed was collected and a permanent monitoring transect had been established (Duncan 2010). Seed successfully germinated under laboratory conditions however establishment in soil has been unsuccessful.
- No translocations have been undertaken.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulation.
- Reduce collective impact of threats through intensive site management.
- Detect more subpopulations through targeted surveys.
- Establish an *ex situ* collection to facilitate research and translocation.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via translocation (augmentation and introductions).

## Information required

| Theme                                   | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                              | Priority |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Taxonomy                                | Undertaken further genetic studies to define relationship to closely related species including <i>C. robertsonii</i> and <i>C. platytilus</i> .                               | High     |
| Population surveys                      | Undertake targeted surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations.                                                              | High     |
|                                         | Maintain regular monitoring to assess population response to management activities and threats.                                                                               | High     |
| Germination requirements/seed viability | Undertake trials to determine seed viability, germination cues and requirements for successful establishment in controlled and natural conditions.                            | High     |
| Habitat requirements                    | Undertake research to identify habitat requirements, including possible micro-site preferences in preparation for future translocation efforts and intensive site management. | High     |
|                                         | Identify areas of suitable habitat for translocation to secure tenure.                                                                                                        | High     |
| Illegal collection                      | Investigate additional options to decrease illegal collection.                                                                                                                | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                             | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Establish <i>ex situ</i> subpopulation as a conservation collection, with maximum range of genetic diversity.                                                                | High     |
|                                            | Propagate large numbers of individuals for translocation including augmentation of wild subpopulation and into other areas of suitable habitat.                              | High     |
| Climate change/stochastic events           | Hand water plants during flowering/ fruiting season if weather is persistently dry.                                                                                          | High     |
|                                            | Establish <i>ex situ</i> conservation collection as an insurance population for future augmentation of wild subpopulations or reintroduction if extant sites become extinct. | High     |
| Grazing/herbivory                          | Maintain exclusion fence to reduce herbivory.                                                                                                                                | High     |
|                                            | Investigate other options (i.e. culling, caging) to reduce the impacts of herbivory.                                                                                         | Medium   |
| Invasive weeds                             | Control invasive weeds in extant population and in potential translocation sites.                                                                                            | Low      |

## Experts consulted

Neville Walsh, Gary Backhouse and Jeff Jeanes.

## References

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- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (2012) 'Interim biogeographic regionalisation for Australia (regions – states and territories) v. 7 (IBRA) [ESRI shapefile]'. (Commonwealth of Australia: Canberra) Available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/fed/catalog/search/resource/details.page?uuid=%7B3166C0C2-CA6E-42A9-883A-B9839C61B49C%7D> [Verified 21 September 2020]
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## *Commersonia erythrogyna* C.F.Wilkins [MALVACEAE] Trigwell's rulingia



*Commersonia erythrogyna* flowers (left), fruits and leaves (right), at Kings Park and Botanic Garden (images: Russell Cumming).

### Overview

*Commersonia erythrogyna* (formerly *Rulingia* sp. Trigwell Bridge) is known from a single wild population on a rocky ridge amongst cleared farmland, but no plants have been seen here since 2012. Five translocations have been undertaken but none have successfully established. Mechanisms of decline are not well-understood but probably relate to lack of high-intensity fires to stimulate germination and a declining rainfall trend.

### Conservation status

|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

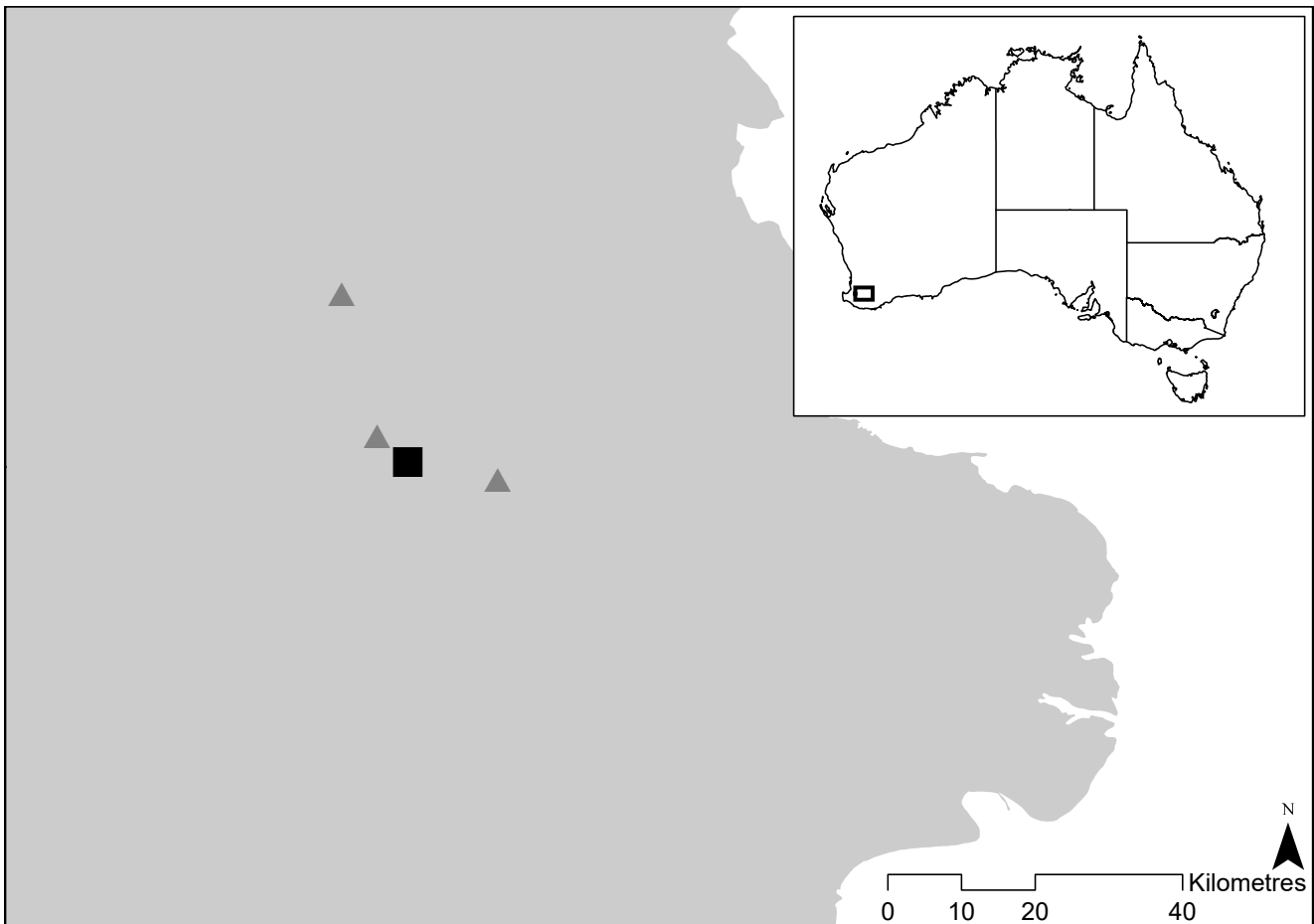
### Brief description

Erect, spreading shrub to 3 m with star-shaped hairs covering the branches and leaves (Wilkins and Whitlock 2011). Narrow, deciduous stipules arise from the base of the petioles with the upper stipules often divided into lobes. Inflorescence terminal, 7.5-11.5 mm long with 3-7 white flowers with dark red anthers. Flower buds are strongly ribbed, petals have a broad base that extends to a narrow ligule and are equal or shorter in length than the sepals. Fruit white-brown, ellipsoid, 9.5-12.8 mm long and 6-8 mm wide. *Commersonia erythrogyna* is distinguished by the pink-red ovary hairs and glabrous inner calyx and petal ligule (Wilkins and Whitlock 2011).

### Distribution

*Commersonia erythrogyna* is known from a very restricted distribution near Booyup (Booyup Brook) within the Jarrah Forest bioregion of south-western Western Australia (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020). No plants have been observed since 2012, but the species may persist in the soil seedbank. Five translocations have been undertaken nearby, but only two plants survive.





Current distribution (black square) of *Commersonia erythrogyna* in the Jarrah Forest bioregion (shaded grey) of Western Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020). Five translocated subpopulations were established but have been unsuccessful (three are displayed as grey triangles; Silcock *et al.* 2019).

## Population estimate and trends

*Commersonia erythrogyna* is known from a single subpopulation in remnant woodland surrounded by farmland (Wilkins and Whitlock 2011). Since the species was first collected in 1989, fewer than four wild plants have been known (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; DBCA 2020). Two juvenile plants present in 1992 survived to maturity in 1995 (Stack and Brown 2003). The subpopulation declined thereafter and no plants have been seen since 2012, although the species may persist here in the soil seedbank. Targeted surveys have been conducted in similar habitat and no additional wild subpopulations have been located.

Five translocated subpopulations were established between 1997 and 2001 by planting *ex situ* propagated plants and conducting trial burns using buried seed (Stack and Brown 2003; Silcock *et al.* 2019). In 2003, these translocations were estimated to contain 130 mature individuals and 300 juveniles (Stack and Brown 2003). The health of all translocated subpopulations has declined and only two plants remain (A Webb pers.comm. 2018). Access to water appears to have been insufficient for plant survival, indicating the translocation sites were unsuitable.

*Commersonia erythrogyna* monitoring data, 1992–2018 (AVH 2020; DBCA 2020). Five translocated subpopulations were established, but only two plants remain across all sites (Silcock *et al.* 2019).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                    | Number of mature individuals (juveniles) [dead]                                                        | Trend      |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 Booyup (Boyup Brook) (private property) | 1989: 3 [1]<br>1992: 2 (2)<br>1995: 4<br>1998: 4<br>2001: 3<br>2002: 2<br>2007-2012: 1<br>2014-2018: 0 | Decreasing |

## Habitat and ecology

The single wild subpopulation is found on a lateritic ridge supporting low open jarrah *Eucalyptus marginata* and marri *Corymbia calophylla* woodland, with plants growing in small fissures in the rock (Wilkins and Whitlock 2011). This may not be the preferred habitat for the species, as it may have survived here due to respite from grazing (Stack and Brown 2003). Associated species include *Banksia grandis*, *Xanthorrhoea preissii*, *Macrozamia riedlei*, *Billardiera heterophylla* and *Acacia pulchella*. Translocations into more fertile, laterite-rich soils in less exposed areas have shown poor survival, possibly because plants had limited moisture access compared with the plants growing in rock fissures.

*Commersonia erythrogyna* flowers between August and October (Wilkins and Whitlock 2011). Individuals grown in cultivation are vigorous and can reach reproductive maturity within 1 year (Stack and Brown 2003). Observations of the wild population found that 60% of flowers produced fruit with 5000 seeds per plant (Stack and Brown 2003). Seed remains viable in the soil for at least 7 years, so extreme fluctuations are not likely. Germination is maximised after high intensity fires (>50°C and >10 minutes duration), but is not influenced by smoke (Stack and Brown 2003).

Ringneck parrots *Barnardius zonarius* have been observed consuming the fruit of *C. erythrogyna* and the foliage is palatable to domestic stock and rabbits (Stack and Brown 2003). This species does not appear to be susceptible to *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (Stack and Brown 2003).

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                   | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 4 km <sup>2</sup>                          | Low         |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | Medium      |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.001 km <sup>2</sup> ) | Low         |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | Medium      |
| No. of mature individuals     | 0                                          | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (lack of recruitment)                    | Low         |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | Medium      |
| No. of subpopulations         | 1                                          | Low         |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | Medium      |
| Generation length             | Unknown                                    | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                             | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                        | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                     | High        |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                                         |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; and continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, quality of habitat, number of locations/subpopulations and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i,ii)      | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation; and 100% of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                       |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                            | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                  | n/a      | n/a      | n/a           | Habitat has been greatly reduced and severely fragmented by land clearing for agriculture. The only known wild subpopulation occurred on a rocky outcrop amongst cleared farmland.                                                                                                                                                   |
| Lack of recruitment<br><i>Ongoing</i>        | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | The only known wild subpopulation has disappeared with no observed recruitment since 1992, although the species may persist here in the seedbank. Recruitment has occurred in translocated subpopulations and is maximised with high-intensity fires, although subpopulations are still declining simultaneously despite management. |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | Occasional high intensity fires are required to germinate soil-stored seed. A lack of high intensity fires would result in low recruitment. The area around the single wild subpopulation has low fuel load and exposed rock, and has not had an intense fire for >50 years.                                                         |
| Climate change<br><i>Ongoing</i>             | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | Declines have occurred at all subpopulations despite management. Decline may be associated with a decreasing rainfall trend (Hope <i>et al.</i> 2015). Juvenile plants have poor survivorship in hot, dry summer conditions.                                                                                                         |
| Grazing and herbivory<br><i>Ongoing</i>      | Majority | Slow     | Medium        | The remaining wild individuals were known only from a rocky outcrop where grazing may have been limited. These plants were caged immediately after they were located. Grazing by rabbits and sheep is a threat at translocations that are not fenced or caged. Ringneck parrots damage the plants while feeding on the fruit.        |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>             | Minority | Slow     | Low           | Weeds are not a major threat in the rocky habitat of the wild subpopulation, but may threaten translocations on more fertile soil.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Genetic diversity<br><i>Ongoing</i>          | Whole    | Unknown  | Unknown       | Translocated subpopulations are derived from two wild individuals that are now dead, representing an extremely limited gene pool. Impacts of this are unknown.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Stochastic events<br><i>Ongoing</i>          | Whole    | Rapid    | Medium        | Given the very restricted distribution and small population size, this species is vulnerable to stochastic events including successive wildfires and prolonged drought.                                                                                                                                                              |

## Current management

- Recovery actions are identified in a recovery plan (Stack and Brown 2003).
- The only known wild subpopulation does not occur in a conservation reserve.
- Five translocated subpopulations have been established on private property, conservation reserves and nature reserves from individuals propagated via tissue culture, cuttings and grafting. Although the subpopulations have produced viable seed, they are not considered self-sustaining as only two individuals remain (Stack and Brown 2003).
- Burning trials have been undertaken to determine the effect of fire on germination. A recruitment burn was conducted at one translocation site in 2017.

- The Western Australian Seed Centre holds 19 237 seeds in storage that were collected from wild and translocated plants in 1994 and 1998, as well as 43 042 seeds collected in 2003 from an unknown source. The collection includes 8846 seeds collected from up to four wild plants in 1994 and 1998. Germination trials indicate seed germinability ranges from 39% to 96%.
- The species forms part of the living collection at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, with 30 plants from three clones (12 plants in the Conservation Garden and 18 in the nursery collection). Kings Park Science have several genotypes in tissue culture and cryogenic storage.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain translocated and historic subpopulations.
- Protect habitat of known subpopulation in appropriate conservation agreements. Increase area of potential habitat in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Trial translocation in higher rainfall habitats to determine the role of climatic drying in long-term habitat suitability.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via intensive site management and translocations (augmentation and introduction).

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority     |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Population surveys                         | Undertake targeted surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations, particularly after fire.<br>Monitor known subpopulations to determine response to management actions and threats.    | High<br>High |
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High         |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Undertake research to better understand the most suitable fire regime for the species.                                                                                                                                                | High         |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Identify suitable habitat in higher rainfall areas for future translocation trials.<br>Identify mechanisms of decline in translocated subpopulations.                                                                                 | High<br>High |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Priority                     |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Habitat protection                         | Protect potential and historical habitat for future translocations. Continue to monitor and manage translocated subpopulations including protection from grazing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | High                         |
| Lack of recruitment                        | Conduct trials within suitable habitat to determine requirements for germination and long-term survival considering fire regimes, competition, grazing and other disturbances.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | High                         |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Establish and maintain genetic diversity of <i>ex situ</i> collections to support ongoing translocation efforts.<br>In the event of recruitment in the natural subpopulation, or the discovery of other natural subpopulations, collect seed for <i>ex situ</i> conservation.<br>Trial hand watering of juveniles to increase survivorship.<br>Conduct translocations in suitable habitat in higher rainfall areas. | High<br>High<br>High<br>High |
| Extension and awareness                    | Raise awareness of the species with relevant stakeholders in attempts to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Medium                       |

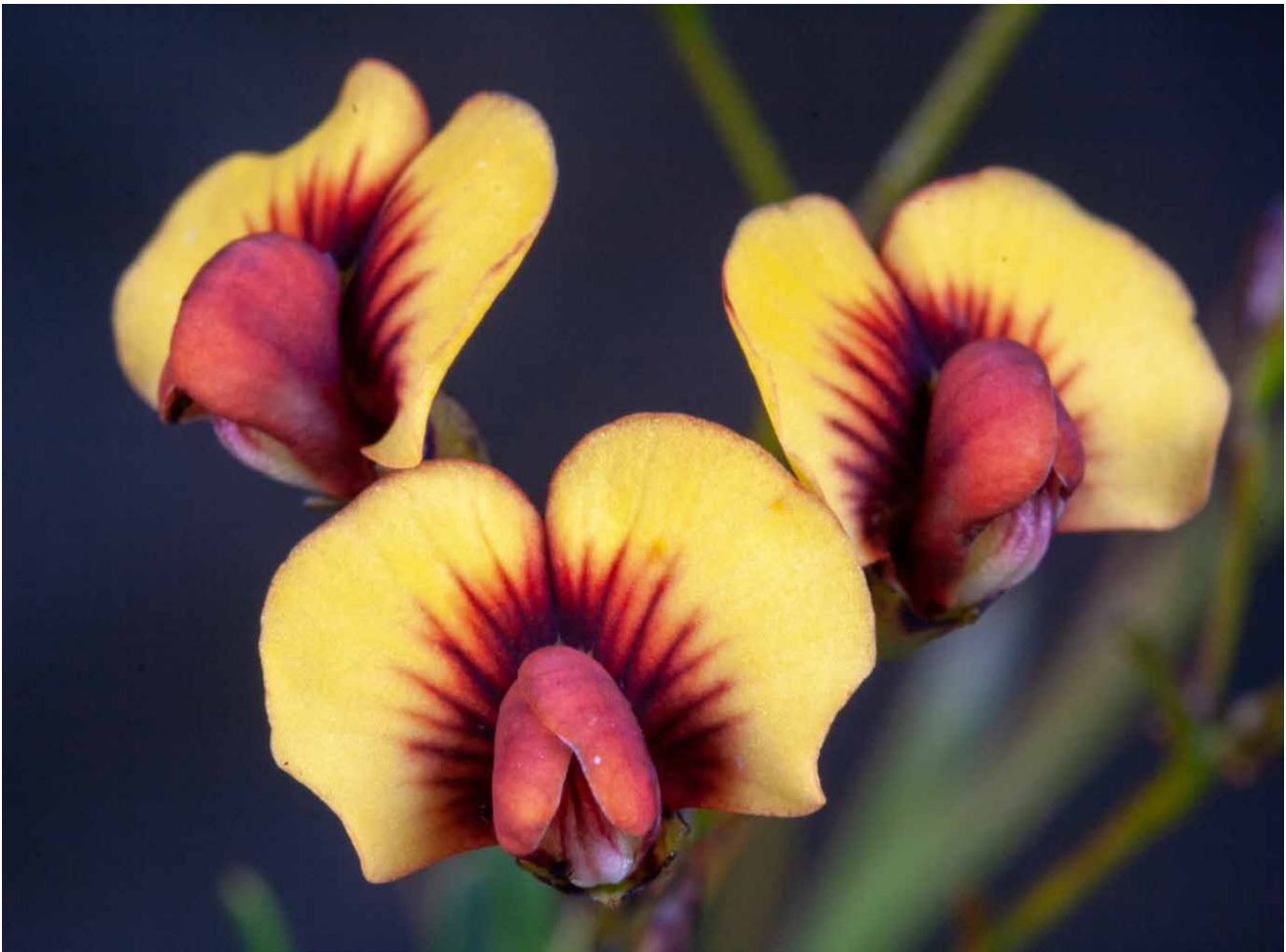
## Experts consulted

Andrew Webb, Natasha Oke, Andrew Crawford and Tanya Llorens.

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## *Daviesia bursarioides* Crisp [FABACEAE] Three Springs daviesia



*Daviesia bursarioides* flowers (image: Andrew Crawford).

### Overview

*Daviesia bursarioides* is restricted to several small subpopulations that mostly occur along roadsides in the heavily cleared Avon Wheatbelt region of Western Australia. The species relies on disturbance including fire for recruitment, but this is difficult to implement. A translocation has been undertaken, but in the absence of recruitment all subpopulations are declining as mature individuals senesce.

### Conservation status

|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

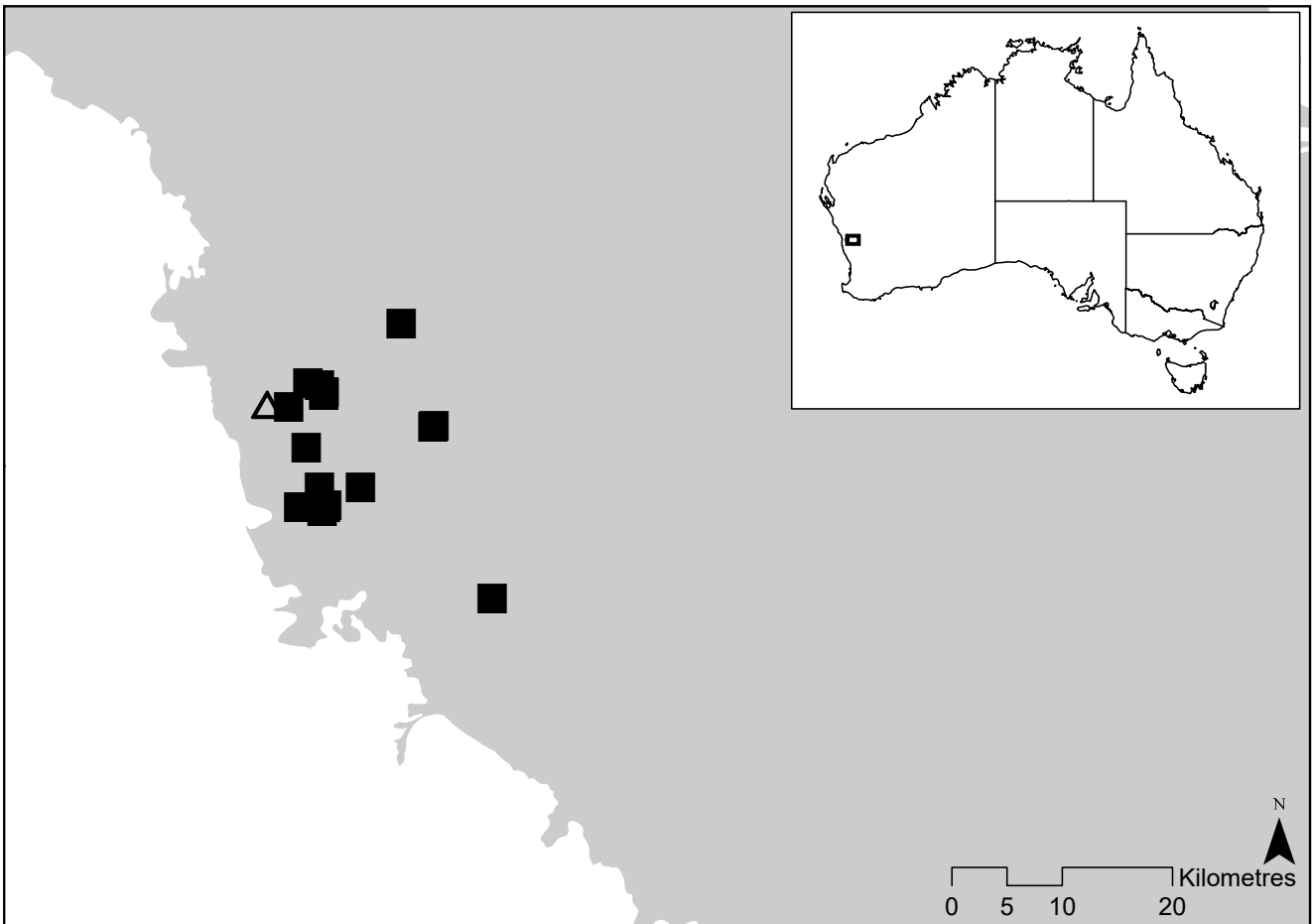
### Brief description

Straggly shrub to 2 m with blue-green spine-tipped branchlets that diverge from the stem at 45° angles (Crisp 1995). The leaves are distinctive among *Daviesia* species, being scattered and small, obovate, up to 20 mm long and 2.5 mm wide (Patrick and Brown 2001). Inflorescence is a raceme with 4-8 yellow flowers with maroon centres. Fruit is a compressed and leathery pod 10-14 mm long (Crisp 1995). *Daviesia bursarioides* cannot be confused with any other species in the genus (Crisp 1995).



## Distribution

*Daviesia bursarioides* is known from a very restricted distribution in the Three Springs area, 300 km south-east of Geraldton in the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion in south-western Western Australia (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020).



Current distribution (black squares) of *Daviesia bursarioides* in the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion (shaded grey) of Western Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020). One subpopulation has been augmented with translocated individuals since 1998 (hollow triangle).

## Population estimate and trends

*Daviesia bursarioides* was first collected in 1932 from between Moora and Mingenew and it is probable the species is naturally restricted to this region (Stack *et al.* 2014). Additional collections were made in 1958, 1972 and 1973 (AVH 2020; DBCA 2020). After re-survey in 1978 only three individuals in one subpopulation were located. Four additional subpopulations were located between 1993 and 1995, with three occurring on road verges and another on private property (Stack *et al.* 2004). A sixth subpopulation was located in a nature reserve in 1997 (Stack *et al.* 2004). The species is currently known from six subpopulations with 44 mature individuals. One subpopulation has been augmented and 36 of the translocated plants survive (Silcock *et al.* 2019).

Ongoing declines are projected given the prevalence of threats to subpopulations and lack of recruitment. Eight plants were removed from Subpopulation 3 in 2019 for planned road maintenance. Some targeted surveys have been undertaken but more are needed given the species' response to disturbance.

*Daviesia bursarioides* monitoring data, 1978-2019 (DBCA 2020; Stack et al. 2014).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                                 | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                                                         | Trend      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 Three Springs south (road reserve/ private property) | 1978: 3<br>1984: 12<br>1994: 19<br>1999: 9<br>2000: 12<br>2006: 6 (1)<br>2011: 5<br>2016: 1                                                      | Decreasing |
| 2 Three Springs (road reserve)                         | 1993: 4<br>1994: 5 (6)<br>1997: 5 (6)<br>2000: 4<br>2002: 2<br>2006: 1 (8)<br>2011: 8<br>2016: 0 (3)                                             | Decreasing |
| 3 Three Springs north (Main Roads road reserve)        | 1993: 5<br>1994: 5 (12)<br>2000: 15<br>2006: 9 (4)<br>2011: 17<br>2016: 14 (2)<br>2019: 9<br>2019: 1                                             | Decreasing |
| 4 Three Springs north (Main Roads road reserve)        | 1994: 9 (3)<br>2000: 11<br>2002: 5<br>2006: 2<br>2011: 1 (1)<br>2016: 1                                                                          | Decreasing |
| 5 Three Springs southwest (private property)           | 1995: 60<br>2001: ~35<br>2006: 36 (8)<br>2011: 41 (1)<br>2016: 39 (3)                                                                            | Decreasing |
| 6 Three Springs (nature reserve)                       | 1997: 4<br>1998: 15 (192T)<br>2000: 14 (330T)<br>2006: 5 + 114T including seedlings<br>2011: 3 (T not counted)<br>2012: 4 + 52T<br>2016: 2 + 36T | Decreasing |

Translocated individuals/subpopulation (T).

## Habitat and ecology

*Daviesia bursarioides* occurs on rises and slopes in gravelly red-brown sandy loams over laterite amongst open shrubby heath. Associated species include *Eucalyptus gittinsii*, *Allocasuarina campestris*, *Santalum* sp., *Olearia* sp., *Grevillea* sp., *Acacia* sp., and *Hakea* sp. (Stack *et al.* 2004). Flowering occurs between July and September (Stack *et al.* 2004) and pollination is assumed to be by bees (Schwarten 1995). A high proportion of ovules abort, although this is apparent in other *Daviesia* spp. (Schwarten 1995). The quantity of seeds stored in the topsoil is thought to be low, as the majority are moved to depth by ants or consumed by other invertebrates. Experimentally buried seeds retained 100% viability after 6 months but declined to 65% within 12 months (Schwarten 1995). Translocated plants produce seed within 3 years, and longevity is thought to be >15-20 years (L Monks pers.comm. 2020).

*Daviesia bursarioides* is probably a disturbance opportunist. Plants were observed to be more vigorous in recently disturbed areas (e.g. a disused gravel pit) than in adjacent remnant vegetation (Stack *et al.* 2004). Competition for light and water limits growth and seed production when under a dense canopy (Schwarten 1995). Fire commonly stimulates seed germination for other legumes, but the specific response of *D. bursarioides* is unknown (Crisp 1985). Seeds have physical dormancy that must be broken before germination can occur. Heat from fire may be the major mechanism for triggering germination, as smoke treatments were found to decrease germination of *D. bursarioides* seed (Schwarten 1995). Seed scarification during mechanical disturbance is also likely to stimulate seed germination as seedlings appear after roadworks and fence construction (Stack *et al.* 2004).

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                 | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 74 km <sup>2</sup>                       | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 20 km <sup>2</sup> (<1 km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 6 (lack of recruitment)                  | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 6                                        | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 44                                       | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| Generation length             | 4-6 years                                | Medium      |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                           | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                      | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                   | High        |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                  |
| B1ab(i-v)      | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; and continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, area, extent and quality of habitat, number of locations/subpopulations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                     |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                              |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                   | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Land clearing<br><i>Past</i>                        | n/a      | n/a      | n/a           | Land clearing, predominantly for agriculture, has resulted in the decline and severe fragmentation of available habitat. This may also have reduced the abundance of suitable pollinators.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Lack of appropriate disturbance<br><i>Suspended</i> | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | <i>Daviesia bursarioides</i> responds positively to some level of disturbance. Lack of recruitment observed across all subpopulations is likely due to lack of appropriate disturbance. However, inappropriate disturbance can kill mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i>        | Majority | Slow     | Medium        | The majority of subpopulations occur on roadside reserves or private property. These are threatened by activities associated with the maintenance of roads, fences and firebreaks including mowing, herbicide spraying, grading, drain construction and gravel extraction (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2015). While some plants have been destroyed in past roadworks, all roadside subpopulations are now marked and Shire staff are aware of them. |
| Grazing<br><i>Ongoing</i>                           | Majority | Slow     | Medium        | Grazing by macropods and domestic stock can cause death of juvenile plants that are not yet spiny (TSSC 2015). A subpopulation on private property has been fenced although future management is uncertain. Macropods grazed heavily upon translocated individuals in 1999 and 2000, although this may vary according to the availability of alternative browse.                                                                                                 |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                    | Majority | Slow     | Low           | Roadside populations occur in very narrow (3-4 m wide) reserves adjacent to cleared farmland providing an ongoing source of invasive weed seeds that can increase competition and alter fuel loads. However, current weed levels in the harsh habitat are low.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Future</i>               | Whole    | Unknown  | Unknown       | Preliminary research indicates <i>D. bursarioides</i> is highly susceptible to phytophthora <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> dieback. However, the pathogen has not been confirmed within the dry habitat of the species.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (Stack *et al.* 2004; TSSC 2015).
- One subpopulation is protected within a nature reserve.
- Relevant stakeholders have been engaged and made aware of the location of the plants. All roadside subpopulations are marked with threatened flora markers.
- The subpopulation on private property has been fenced to exclude stock.
- The Western Australian Seed Centre holds 5130 seeds collected between 1996 and 2014 from Subpopulations 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. Testing conducted on six of the 23 seed collections indicated that seed germinability ranged from 50-100%.
- A translocation of approximately 600 juveniles was undertaken to the nature reserve from 1998-2000 and 36 plants remain. Other individuals planted at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens have died.
- Monitoring is ongoing at known subpopulations.

## Conservation objectives

- Detect more subpopulations through targeted surveys.
- Protect habitat of known subpopulations in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Increase the habitat quality for both *D. bursarioides* and potential pollinators within the vicinity of known subpopulations.
- Maintain and increase connectivity between known subpopulations.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via translocation (augmentation and introductions to secure tenure).

### Information required

| Theme                             | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                | Undertake targeted surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                      | High     |
|                                   | Monitor subpopulations in response to management actions and threats.                                                                                                                                                                 | High     |
| Life history and ecology          | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes | Undertake research to better understand the disturbance requirements of the species (both mechanical and fire).                                                                                                                       | High     |
|                                   | Determine suitable methods to increase the population abundance via disturbance, probably fire.                                                                                                                                       | High     |

### Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                         | Protect known and potential habitat in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                                                                                                                                                              | High     |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes          | Implement appropriate disturbance at subpopulations following sufficient seed set (Stack <i>et al.</i> 2004) to stimulate germination and limit competition from taller canopy species. Mechanical disturbance can be used in hot weather when fire may not be suitable. | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Maintain and expand <i>ex situ</i> seed collections to represent maximum range of genetic diversity.                                                                                                                                                                     | High     |
|                                            | Continue propagation to support ongoing translocation efforts.                                                                                                                                                                                                           | High     |
|                                            | Continue to implement translocation project, ensuring juvenile plants receive adequate water and protection from herbivory, and ideally implement a recruitment burn at the translocated subpopulation.                                                                  | High     |
| Invasive weeds                             | Manage invasive weeds at all subpopulations to reduce competition, especially following disturbance.                                                                                                                                                                     | Medium   |
| Habitat quality                            | Increase connectivity between subpopulations in attempts to increase pollination.                                                                                                                                                                                        | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Leonie Monks, Andrew Crawford and Tanya Llorens.

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## *Daviesia cunderdin* Crisp & G.Chandler [FABACEAE] Cunderdin daviesia



*Daviesia cunderdin* in roadside remnant (top left) and flowering branch (bottom, images: J and F Hort for Bert Hort), and flowers (top right, image: Andrew Brown).

### Overview

*Daviesia cunderdin* has only ever been known from a single population and only two individuals remain. The Kwongan habitat of the species has been extensively cleared for agriculture and the population occurs on a very narrow road verge. Population declines have been ongoing since the species was identified, but the high seed germinability and ongoing translocation provide promise of recovery. Additional self-sustaining subpopulations need to be established on secure tenure, with ongoing weed, pest and fire management.

### Conservation status

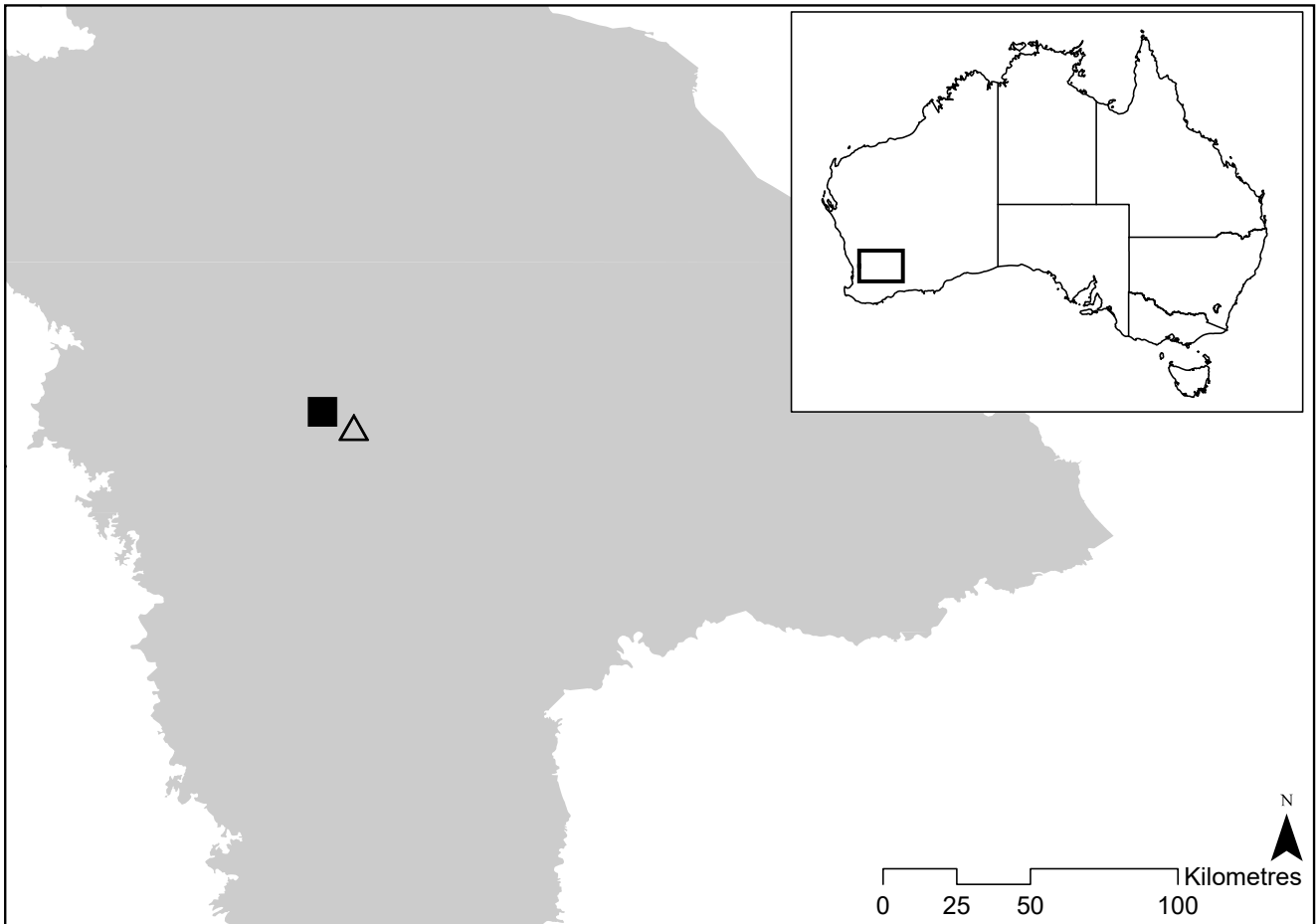
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Erect, compact to open, divaricate shrub, 1.5 m wide and 1.2-1.6 m high. Branchlets prominently ribbed and at 45° with a pedestal at each node. Phyllodes dull green, rigid and flat, elliptical to ovate, 10-20 mm long and 4-9 mm wide, with an acuminate apex 3-4 mm long and three node-like thickenings at the base. Inflorescences axillary, solitary or rarely paired, of a single red-orange flower with a dark centre and two whorls of five stamens (Crisp and Chandler 1997). *Daviesia cunderdin* is closely related to *D. cardiophylla*, *D. eurylobos* and *D. umbonata*, but has larger red flowers, a standard 12-15 mm long that remains partly folded at anthesis and bears a pair of basal deltoid appendages. The other species have yellow-red flowers with a smaller standard (<10 mm long) that fully opens. The phyllodes of *D. cunderdin* are rounded rather than cordate in *D. cardiophylla*, cuneate like *D. umbonata*, or adaxially concave in *D. eurylobos* (Crisp and Chandler 1997).

## Distribution

*Daviesia cunderdin* is only known from its type locality north of Cunderdin in the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion of south-western Western Australia (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020). A translocated subpopulation has been established nearby, but recruitment has not yet occurred (Silcock *et al.* 2019).



Current distribution (black square) of *Daviesia cunderdin* in the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion (shaded grey) of Western Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020). A translocated subpopulation has been established (hollow triangle) but recruitment has not yet occurred (Silcock *et al.* 2019).

## Population estimate and trends

*Daviesia cunderdin* was only known from five to six individuals along a single road verge when it was described by Crisp and Chandler (1997). Despite searching throughout suitable habitat, no additional subpopulations have been located (Department of Environment and Conservation 2009). Continuing decline has been observed as mature individuals senesce in the absence of recruitment (DEC 2009). Two individuals remain.

A translocation was undertaken in 2004, followed by four subsequent plantings (Silcock *et al.* 2019). Of the 306 young plants derived from seeds and cuttings, 51 were alive and reproductively mature in 2019 (L Monks pers.comm. 2020). However, as recruitment has not been observed the subpopulation is not considered self-sustaining and was not included in the IUCN assessments.

*Daviesia cunderdin* monitoring data, 1991-2007 (DBCA 2020; DEC 2009; Crisp and Chandler 1997; L Monks unpublished data).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                       | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                                        | Trend      |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 Cunderdin north (road reserve)             | 1991: 14<br>1993: 5-6<br>1997: 6 [7]<br>1999: 5 (3)<br>2000: 4 (8) [3]<br>2003: 5 (7) [3]<br>2005: 11<br>2006: 9 [3]<br>2018: 2 | Decreasing |
| 2 (T) Cunderdin northeast (private property) | 2004: 102T<br>2007: 30 [105] T<br>2015: 51 [189] T<br>2019: 51 [255] T                                                          | Decreasing |

Translocated individuals/subpopulation (T); numbers of dead plants are shown within square brackets.

## Habitat and ecology

*Daviesia cunderdin* occurs in lateritic sandy clays in Kwongan vegetation dominated by *Allocasuarina campestris*, *Eucalyptus loxophleba* and *E. salmonophloia*. Other associated species include *Acacia acuminata*, *A. volubilis*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Banksia fraseri*, *Gastrolobium spinosum*, *Grevillea hookeriana* and *Leptospermum erubescens* (DEC 2009).

Flowering is typically between May and June but can occur earlier in the year following sufficient rainfall. Flowers are probably pollinated by insects including bees and wasps (DEC 2009). Immature and dehisced fruit have been observed in August and October, respectively. Seeds have a small appendage (elaiosome) to facilitate dispersal by ants (DEC 2009).

Thirty-three to 67% of seed germinate under controlled conditions, and seedlings can become reproductively mature within 3 years (DEC 2009). Plants live for at least 15 years (L Monks pers.comm. 2020). Fire is required to stimulate germination of soil-stored seed, however high mortality (>90%) was observed following controlled burns in 1998 and 2000. This is possibly a response to unfavourable conditions (although the plants were watered) or selection against inbred seed, given the very small population size (DEC 2009).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                  | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.01 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.01 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (lack of recruitment)                   | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 1                                         | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 2                                         | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| Generation length             | 10 years                                  | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                            | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                       | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                    | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A2a            | CR: >80% reduction observed within 3 generations (85% from 1991-2018); causes have not ceased, are not understood and may not be reversible; based on direct observation.                                                                              |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; continuing decline projected in AOO, EOO and number of locations; and continuing decline observed in quality of habitat and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                                              |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                             | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                   | n/a   | n/a      | n/a           | The habitat of <i>D. cunderdin</i> has undergone a significant past decline due to agriculture, with <6% of bushland remaining in the Central Wheatbelt (Wheatbelt NRM 2015). Remaining habitat is severely fragmented, with 94% of habitat patches <10 ha (WNRM 2015). The naturally occurring subpopulation of <i>D. cunderdin</i> occurs in a very small patch of degraded vegetation along a road verge. |
| Lack of recruitment<br><i>Ongoing</i>         | Whole | Rapid    | High          | Despite high seed germination, survivorship of recruits is <10% even with regular watering. Recruitment has been very limited in the natural subpopulation of <i>D. cunderdin</i> . Lack of fire has probably contributed to the small population size, as fire is required to stimulate seed germination (DEC 2009).                                                                                        |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i>  | Whole | Rapid    | High          | Fire kills mature individuals of <i>D. cunderdin</i> , but is required to stimulate germination of soil-stored seed (DEC. 2009). Fires that occur before seedlings mature and contribute to the seedbank will cause population declines. In the absence of fire, mature individuals senesce and are not replaced, also causing population declines.                                                          |
| Drought<br><i>Ongoing</i>                     | Whole | Rapid    | High          | Mortality of seedlings is heightened during summer and especially drought periods, with up to 90% mortality observed despite mulching, weeding and watering every 1-2 weeks (DEC 2009).                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Road maintenance activities<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole | Rapid    | High          | <i>Daviesia cunderdin</i> occurs on a narrow road verge (<5 m wide) that is vulnerable to road maintenance activities including grading, drainage channel construction, herbicide drift/spraying, firebreak and fence maintenance. Herbicide spraying occurred near the subpopulation from 1994-1997 (DEC 2009).                                                                                             |



| Threat and timing                           | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vertebrate pests (rabbits)<br><i>Future</i> | Whole | Slow     | Medium        | Rabbits have been recorded within the natural subpopulation and seedlings are vulnerable to herbivory until they develop spiny branchlets at ca. 12 months. Root disturbance due to rabbit burrowing has also been observed. Rabbit control commenced in 2008 and requires ongoing maintenance (DEC 2009). The translocated subpopulation is fenced, with occasional rabbit control carried out as necessary (L Monks pers. comm. 2020). |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>            | Whole | Slow     | Medium        | Invasive weeds were abundant within the narrow road verge when the species was first recorded (DEC 2009). Invasive weed control has since been undertaken and requires ongoing maintenance. Invasive weeds increase competition and alter fuel loads and thus fire regimes.                                                                                                                                                              |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Future</i>       | Whole | Unknown  | Unknown       | A high proportion of <i>Daviesia</i> spp. have a moderate to high susceptibility to phytophthora <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> dieback (Cahill et al. 2008). The susceptibility of <i>D. cunderdin</i> has not been established. The species does not co-occur with phytophthora, which is confined to the 400 mm rainfall isohyet (D Coates pers.comm. 2020).                                                                           |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (DEC 2009) and implemented, including measures to address invasive weeds, roadside threats, rabbit control and stakeholder engagement.
- A translocation proposal was developed and undertaken in 2004, with four additional plantings in later years. Fifty-one individuals were reproductively mature at this private property site in 2019.
- Controlled burns were undertaken in 1998 and 2000, which stimulated seed germination around the base of dead individuals. More than 90% of germinants died (DEC 2009).
- Germination trials have been undertaken by the DBCA Threatened Flora Seed Centre with 33-67% germination success. Propagation trials of cuttings undertaken by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority had a 20-60% success rate. The strike rates for cuttings derived from young plants grown *ex situ* from seed were significantly higher (DEC 2009).
- Monitoring of control burn trials has informed a fire management strategy with return intervals of ca. 10 years (DEC 2009). This management strategy is currently unfeasible in the narrow, weedy roadside habitat of the wild subpopulation (L Monks pers.comm. 2020).
- The translocated subpopulation is fenced and rabbit control occurs when necessary.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Increase the area of suitable habitat for the species in conservation reserves. Establish translocated subpopulations in these reserves.
- Initiate recruitment in both subpopulations.
- Increase the number of self-sustaining subpopulations and individuals in the wild.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and fire ecology. The length of time soil-stored seed can remain viable is of particular relevance. | High     |
|                                            | Identify reasons and management strategies for high mortality of seedlings following fire.                                                                                                                                                                                                    | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Identify sites of suitable habitat with secure tenure for establishing translocated subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                                           | High     |
| Population surveys                         | Monitor response of subpopulations to threats and management actions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | High     |
|                                            | Undertake targeted surveys in other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations, particularly after fire.                                                                                                                                                                            | Medium   |
| Introduced pathogens                       | Establish the susceptibility of <i>D. cunderdin</i> to phytophthora dieback.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Low      |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                           | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                     | Priority |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations      | Continue to collect and germinate seed for <i>ex situ</i> conservation, and propagate cuttings. Ensure maximum range of genetic diversity possible is represented in the collection. | High     |
|                                                 | Continue to reinforce translocated subpopulation with propagated individuals to increase abundance.                                                                                  | High     |
|                                                 | Undertake additional translocations into secure tenure.                                                                                                                              | High     |
| Lack of recruitment/ inappropriate fire regimes | Implement and maintain a fire management strategy to promote recruitment at all subpopulations.                                                                                      | High     |
|                                                 | Hand water seedlings post-germination.                                                                                                                                               | High     |
| Habitat protection                              | Identify areas of additional suitable habitat and protect under appropriate conservation covenants.                                                                                  | High     |
| Herbivory/ vertebrate pests                     | Maintain fence and rabbit control at translocated subpopulation.                                                                                                                     | High     |
|                                                 | Reduce grazing pressure at wild subpopulation via fencing or other suitable methods, particularly after disturbance.                                                                 | Medium   |
| Invasive weeds                                  | Continue invasive weed management at both subpopulations, particularly after fire.                                                                                                   | Medium   |
| Extension and awareness                         | Maintain engagement with landholders that are custodians of the species. Raise awareness with other stakeholders in an attempt to locate additional subpopulations.                  | Medium   |
| Introduced pathogens                            | If found to be susceptible to phytophthora, implement management actions to abate dieback.                                                                                           | Low      |



## Experts consulted

Leonie Monks and David Coates.

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*Epilobium brunnescens* susp. *beagleholei* K.R.West & P.H.Raven [ONAGRACEAE]  
Bog willow-herb



*Epilobium brunnescens* subsp. *beagleholei* plant (top left), flower (right) and Daniel Ohlsen undertaking surveys (bottom left; images: Andre Messina, State Botanical Collection, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria).

## Overview

There are three subspecies of *Epilobium brunnescens*: *E. brunnescens* subsp. *brunnescens* and *E. brunnescens* subsp. *minutiflorum* are endemic to, and widespread, in New Zealand. *Epilobium brunnescens* subsp. *beagleholei* is restricted to a single site in the Snowy Range of Australia. The population is small and has very specific habitat requirements. Although time-series monitoring is not available, a marked decline has occurred over the past four decades. The reason for decline is not well-understood and this taxon, which presumably evolved in isolation since Gondwana diverged 180 million years ago, is now extremely vulnerable to extinction.

## Conservation status

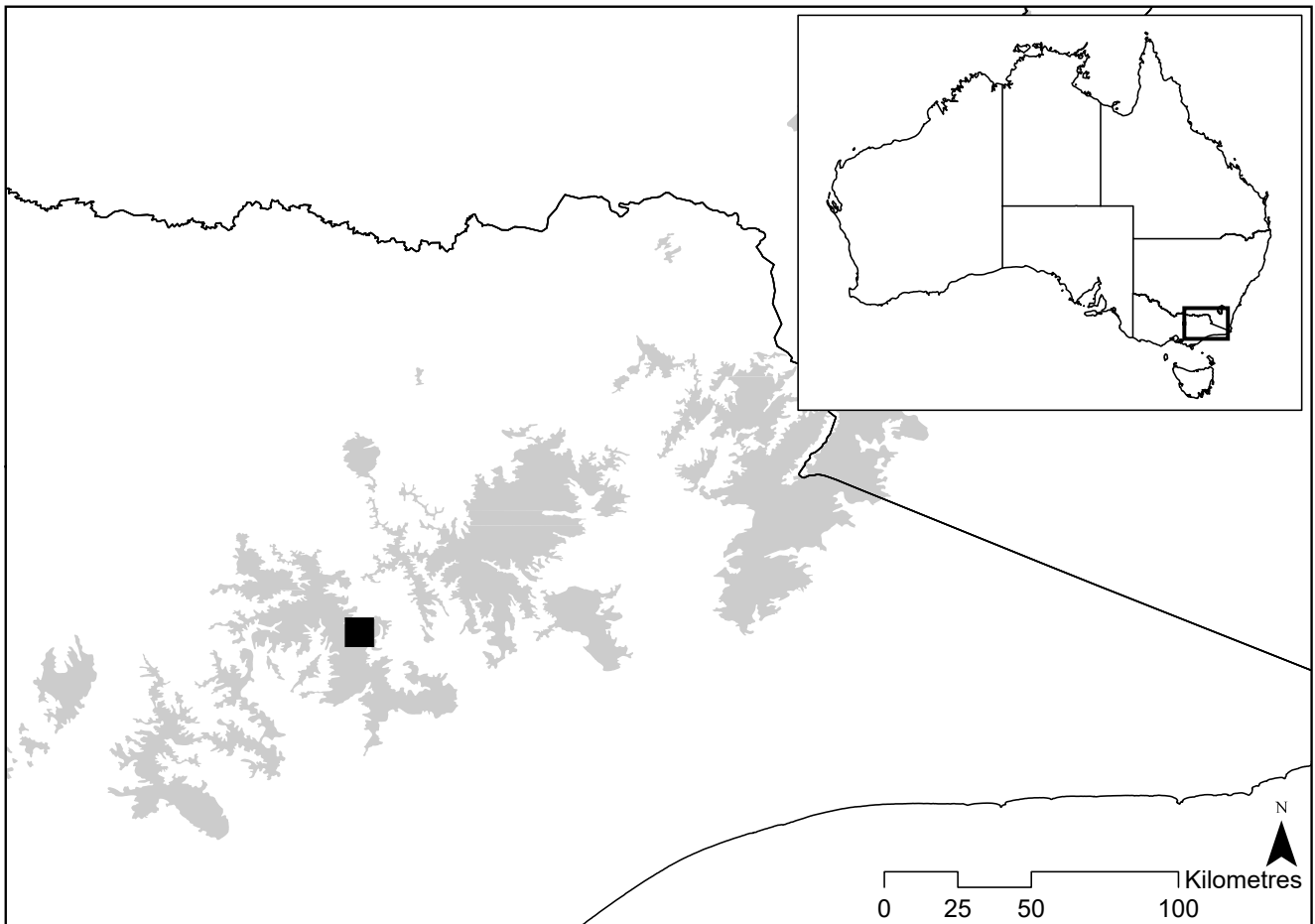
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Vulnerable                         |
| <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 2016</i>                            | Threatened                         |
| Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria               | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

## Brief description

Prostrate perennial forb that forms mats (West and Raven 1977). Leaves are opposite, slightly glossy, have entire margins or a few shallow teeth, and are elliptic to ovate, 3-14 mm long and 2-7 mm wide. White flowers to 8 mm wide have four petals to 4 mm long, and are borne on stalks to 7 cm long. Fruit is a narrow, cylindrical capsule, 18-24 mm long with small dark seeds attached to long silky hairs (West and Raven 1977). This subspecies is distinguished from other *Epilobium* sp. that occur nearby, which have variously toothed leaf margins, rather than mostly entire (Walsh and Entwisle 1996), have pink flowers and are mostly erect or sub-erect (N Walsh pers.comm. 2020). The two other subspecies of *E. brunnescens* are native to New Zealand, where they are widespread.

## Distribution

*Epilobium brunnescens* subsp. *beaugleholei* is known from a single site at Conglomerate Creek Falls in the Snowy Range in Alpine National Park near Licola, in the Victorian Alps bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012). Targeted searches of suitable habitat have failed to locate additional sites. The subspecies is considered severely fragmented (IUCN 2019).



Current distribution of *Epilobium brunnescens* subsp. *beaugleholei* (black square) in the Victorian Alps bioregion (shaded grey) of Victoria (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012).

## Population estimate and trends

*Epilobium brunnescens* subsp. *beaugleholei* was first collected in 1973 and described in 1977 (AVH 2020; West and Raven 1977). There is no time-series monitoring data, but observations suggest a substantial recent decline in abundance. In 1983, 50 plants over 900 m<sup>2</sup> of habitat were recorded, and in 2001 there were only three patches totalling 1 m<sup>2</sup> over an area of 12 m<sup>2</sup> (Carter and Walsh 2006). A similar area of occupancy was estimated in 2020, although some small (ca. 10 cm<sup>2</sup>) moss clumps containing *E. brunnescens* subsp. *beaugleholei* were recently dislodged from the rock face (A Messina pers.comm. 2020). Population dynamics and seasonal fluctuations are poorly understood, and the species is considered at extreme risk of extinction (Cater and Walsh 2006; N Walsh pers.comm. 2020).

## Habitat and ecology

*Epilobium brunnescens* subsp. *beagleholei* grows on moist cliff faces and rocks at 1320 m above sea level amongst bryophyte moss mats that remain moist due to a perennial sub-alpine waterfall (N Walsh pers.comm. 2016). The long nodal roots of *E. brunnescens* subsp. *beagleholei* permeate this mossy substrate, which grows with scarce soil and sunlight. Little is known of the ecology and biology of the taxon, however it depends on moisture to grow, flower and set seed (West and Raven 1977). Generation length is unknown.

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                                        | Estimate                                                  | Reliability    |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual)<br>Trend | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.001 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing | High<br>High   |
| Area of occupancy (actual)<br>Trend    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.001 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing | High<br>High   |
| No. of mature individuals<br>Trend     | <50<br>Decreasing                                         | High<br>Medium |
| No. of locations (key threat)<br>Trend | 1 (climate change)<br>Decreasing                          | High<br>High   |
| No. of subpopulations<br>Trend         | 1<br>Stable                                               | High<br>High   |
| Generation length                      | Unknown                                                   | Low            |
| Extreme fluctuations                   | Not documented                                            | Medium         |
| Severely fragmented                    | Yes                                                       | High           |
| Continuing decline                     | Observed and projected                                    | Medium         |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                                                   |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; and continuing decline projected in AOO, EOO and number of locations; and continuing decline observed in quality of habitat and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i,ii)      | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation; and 90-100% (100%) of individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                              |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                               |



## Threats

| Threat and timing                                                     | Scope | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Climate change<br><i>Ongoing (?) and future</i>                       | Whole | Unknown    | Unknown       | <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> subsp. <i>beagleholei</i> is dependent on the microclimate generated by a waterfall that provides a constant source of moisture (Carter and Walsh 2006). With climate change, many habitats at high altitudes are predicted to become drier and unsuitable, while the species has little capacity to 'move' (Grose <i>et al.</i> 2015). Declines in abundance since the 1980s may reflect changes in climate but further evidence is required. |
| Stochastic events<br>(rock falls)<br><i>Future</i>                    | Whole | Very rapid | Medium        | The population grows on rocks and cliff faces in a very restricted area, and is vulnerable to disturbances such as rock falls (Carter and Walsh 2006). Numerous small clumps containing the species were dislodged from the rock face in 2020. This is probably a natural occurrence after heavy rainfall but highlights the vulnerability of the species to such events (A Messina pers.comm. 2020).                                                                       |
| Human activities<br>(recreation/ illegal collection)<br><i>Future</i> | Whole | Rapid      | Medium        | The population is vulnerable to human visitation impacts such as trampling and illegal collection (Carter and Walsh 2006). However, the site is relatively inaccessible and no impacts have been documented to date (N Walsh pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (Carter and Walsh 2006; Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2016).
- The single subpopulation is protected in national park that is managed for conservation.
- Fencing is not feasible at the site due to very steep topography, and site visitation is low (N Walsh pers.comm. 2020).
- Targeted surveys have been undertaken in potential habitat but no systematic population monitoring has occurred.
- Effective propagation techniques have been identified (West and Raven 1977), and plants have been grown in cultivation at the Melbourne Botanic Gardens.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulation.
- Establish *ex situ* subpopulation for seed collection and future translocations.
- Better understand the biology and ecology of the species, along with the drivers of population declines to inform threat management.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Implement and maintain monitoring program to discern population trends and response to management actions.                                                                                                          | High     |
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the biology, ecology and threats to the species including conservation genetics, seed production and viability, germination requirements and specific habitat requirements. | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Investigate the feasibility of translocations via augmentation and introduction to other areas of suitable habitat on secure tenure.                                                                                | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                               | Specific actions                                                                                       | Priority |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Ex situ conservation/translocations | Collect and store seed representing the maximum range of genetic diversity possible.                   | High     |
|                                     | Maintain and expand ex situ population via seed/cutting propagation.                                   | High     |
|                                     | Reinforce wild population with propagated individuals to increase abundance.                           | Medium   |
| Habitat protection                  | Install and maintain conservation signage around the taxon's habitat.                                  | Medium   |
| Extension and awareness             | Maintain engagement with relevant landholders that are custodians of the species.                      | Medium   |
|                                     | Raise awareness with other stakeholders in the area in an attempt to locate additional subpopulations. | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Andre Messina and Neville Walsh.

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## *Eremophila pinnatifida* (Chinnock) [SCROPHULARIACEAE] Pinnate-leaved eremophila



*Eremophila pinnatifida* flower and leaves, and habit near Dalwallinu (images: Steve and Allison Pearson).

### Overview

*Eremophila pinnatifida* occurs in six subpopulations in south-western Western Australia and only two of these contain mature plants. All subpopulations occur in degraded and fragmented habitat. Disturbance appears to be important for recruitment and the species may persist in the seedbank at some locations.

### Conservation status

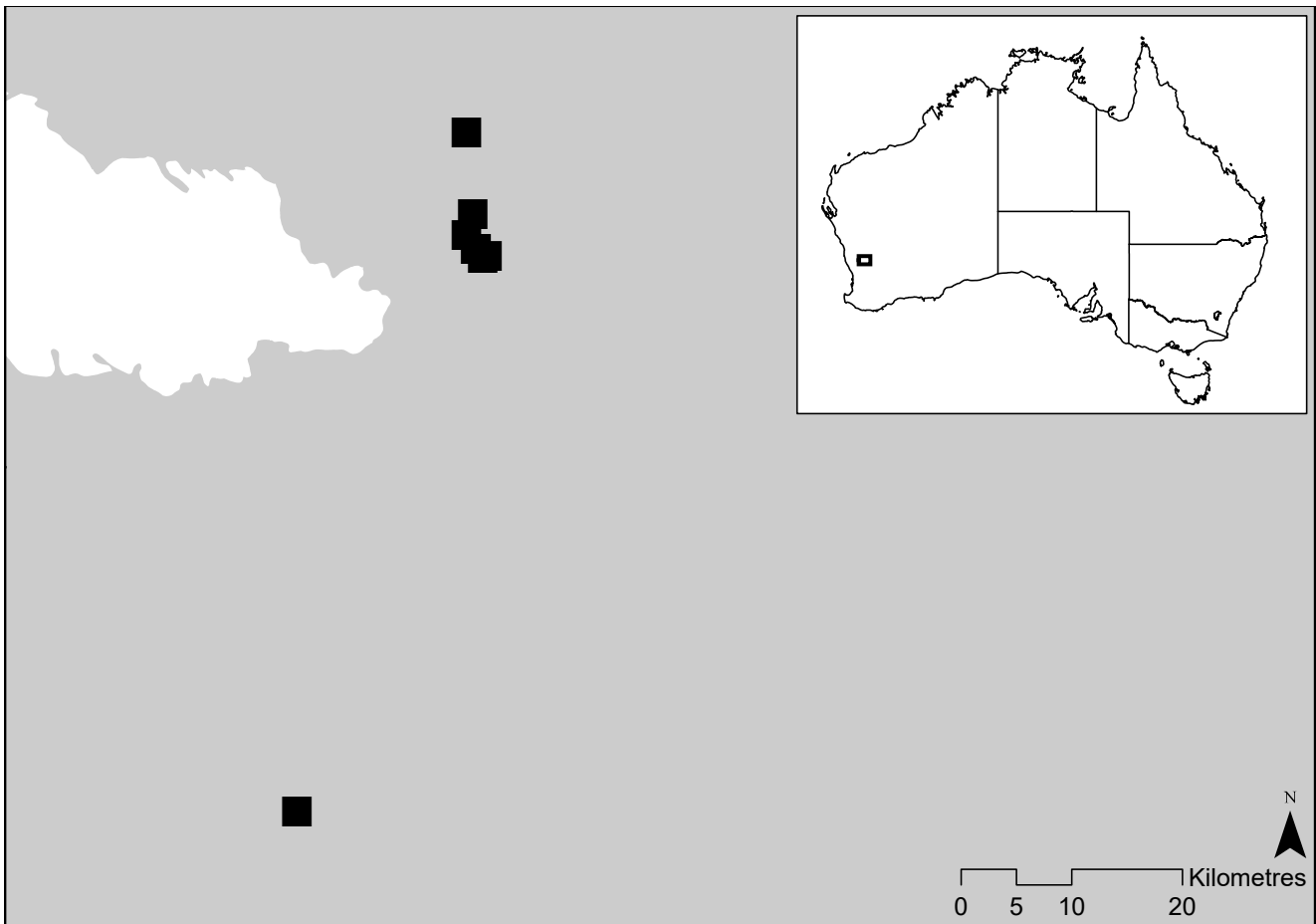
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Spreading, aromatic shrub to 1 m with densely hairy branchlets (Chinnock 2007). Leaves are hairy, erect with deeply lobed margins 5-9 mm long and 3-5 mm wide, and in whorls of three. Tubular flowers are 18-25 mm long, hairy and pale purple outside with purple spots over white inside. Fruit is woody, broadly ovate and contains pale yellow-brown seeds 2.5 mm long and 0.7 mm wide. *Eremophila pinnatifida* is allied to *E. ternifolia*, but differs by its pinnate leaves and prominent pubescence of the vegetative parts (Chinnock 2007). It has larger flowers and more prominently lobed leaves than the closely-related *E. koobabbiensis* (Stack and Brown 2002).

### Distribution

*Eremophila pinnatifida* is known from a scattered distribution near Dalwallinu and Wongan Katta (Wongan Hills) in the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion of south-western Western Australia (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020).



Current distribution (black squares) of *Eremophila pinnatifida* in the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion (shaded grey) of Western Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020). Only two subpopulations contain mature individuals, but the species may persist in the seedbank at the other subpopulations.

## Population estimate and trends

*Eremophila pinnatifida* is currently known from 19 individuals in two subpopulations. When it was first recorded in 1990 the species was known from 35 individuals (Stack and Brown 2002). Additional subpopulations were located nearby and a total of 449 individuals were known in 2002 (Stack and Brown 2002). A disjunct subpopulation with a single individual was located near Wongan Katta (Wongan Hills) in 2007, and an additional subpopulation of 18 individuals was located in 2016 near Dalwallinu (AVH 2020; DBCA 2020).

Time-series monitoring from 1990 indicates the species is in decline at all sites. A population reduction of 93% occurred between 2006 and 2015, assuming the 18 previously-unrecorded mature individuals at Subpopulation 6 remained stable. Many targeted surveys have been undertaken in suitable habitat. The species may still persist in the seedbank at historical locations.

*Eremophila pinnatifida* monitoring data, 1990-2017 (DBCA 2020).

| Subpopulation (tenure)    | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                                                     | Trend                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 (shire reserve)         | 1990: 35<br>1997: 6<br>1998: 3<br>2000: 3 (367)<br>2001: 200 (170)<br>2002: 355<br>2003: 90 (200)<br>2006: >150 (>150)<br>2011: 9<br>2015: 0 | Decreasing                   |
| 2 (shire road verge)      | 1997: 2<br>1998: 3<br>2001: 2<br>2003: 1<br>2006: 0<br>2011: 0<br>2015: 0                                                                    | Decreasing, possibly extinct |
| 3 (Main Roads road verge) | 1998: 16<br>1999: 16<br>2001: 14<br>2004: 13<br>2006: 10<br>2011: 4<br>2015: 0                                                               | Decreasing                   |
| 4 (shire road verge)      | 2001: 78<br>2003: 85<br>2006: 96<br>2011: 6<br>2015: 0                                                                                       | Decreasing                   |
| 5 (road verge)            | 2007: 1<br>2011: 1<br>2015: 1                                                                                                                | Stable                       |
| 6 (road verge)            | 2017: 18                                                                                                                                     | Unknown                      |

## Habitat and ecology

*Eremophila pinnatifida* occurs in red-brown clay loams amongst tall open woodland and shrubland (Chinnock 2007). Associated species include *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. salubris*, *E. loxophleba*, *Santalum acuminatum*, *Templetonia sulcata*, *Eremophila drummondii*, *Acacia merrallii*, chenopods and perennial grasses (Stack and Brown 2002).

Plants flower from August to February with seed maturing between June and July (Collins 2009). The proportion of fruit bearing seed is low, with only four seeds per 100 fruits observed in one case (Stack and Brown 2002), however more recent results from cleaned collections indicate that this is variable and often higher (A Crawford pers.comm. 2020). Plants are thought to live for approximately 10 years (Stack and Brown 2002). Germination occurs after disturbance such as flooding and fire, and the species has declined in areas where disturbance has been absent for prolonged periods. Low seed viability may reflect low genetic diversity associated with the small population size (Chinnock 2007). Due to its persistent soil seedbank, which is unlikely to be exhausted by a single event, extreme fluctuations are unlikely (IUCN 2019).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                   | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 74 km <sup>2</sup>                         | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 16 km <sup>2</sup> (0.01 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 19                                         | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 6 (inappropriate disturbance)              | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 6                                          | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| Generation length             | 3.5 years                                  | Medium      |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                             | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                        | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                     | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A2a            | CR: >80% reduction observed within 3 generations (93% from 2006-2015); causes have not ceased, are not understood and may not be reversible; based on direct observation.                                           |
| B1ab(i-v)      | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; and continuing decline observed and projected in AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations/subpopulations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i,ii)      | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation; and 90-100% (95%) of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                 |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                        |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                   | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                         | n/a   | n/a      | n/a           | Land clearing, predominantly for agriculture has resulted in the decline and fragmentation of available habitat. The species is considered severely fragmented as all subpopulations are very small, and isolated in narrow roadside strips surrounded by cleared land.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole | Rapid    | High          | Some disturbance is required to maintain population abundance. A fire in 1998 at Subpopulation 1 stimulated germination of hundreds of plants but all died by 2015. Fire suppression is typical in the habitat of this species and this lack of disturbance is limiting recruitment resulting in population declines as mature plants senesce. As disturbance and fire can be managed at the subpopulation/ land tenure scale, the species occurs at six locations. |

| Threat and timing                            | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lack of recruitment<br><i>Ongoing</i>        | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | Few seedlings have been observed and germination appears to depend on disturbance of soil-stored seed. Pollinators may be infrequent or absent due to habitat fragmentation and degradation, with implications for seed fertility and dispersal.                                                                                                                                              |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Majority | Rapid    | Medium        | Subpopulations occurring on road verges are vulnerable to road maintenance activities including grading, slashing, herbicide application and drainage construction. Water run-off from roads has caused soil erosion and root exposure of some individuals in roadside drainage lines, which have subsequently died. Several subpopulations previously known from roadsides have disappeared. |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>             | Whole    | Slow     | Medium        | All subpopulations are known from degraded and weedy habitat in road verges and road reserves with limited native vegetation. Wild oats ( <i>Avena fatua</i> ) are the dominant understorey species in the habitat of three subpopulations, inhibiting recruitment.                                                                                                                           |
| Genetic diversity<br><i>Ongoing</i>          | Whole    | Unknown  | Unknown       | The population is small and declining, and therefore vulnerable to loss of genetic diversity. Long-term impacts are unknown.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Housing development<br><i>Future</i>         | Minority | Slow     | Low           | Proposals for housing developments have been considered near one subpopulation. If approved, the area where the species occurs will be set aside as a conservation reserve.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (Stack and Brown 2002; Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2016).
- The species occurs in a Shire reserve.
- More than 6353 fruits containing an estimated 1973 germinable seeds were collected between 1997 and 2019 from Subpopulations 1, 3, 4 and 5, and are stored at the Western Australian Seed Centre.
- The species forms part of the living collection at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, with 31 plants from four clones (seven plants in the Conservation Garden and 24 in the nursery collection). Kings Park Science have several genotypes in tissue culture and cryogenic storage.
- Engagement is ongoing to protect subpopulations from road maintenance activities and urban development.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Detect more subpopulations through targeted surveys, particularly after disturbance.
- Increase area of habitat and number of subpopulations under appropriate conservation agreements.
- Stimulate germination of soil-stored seed and maintain recruitment at known and historic subpopulations.
- Establish *ex situ* subpopulations to spread extinction risk and support translocation efforts.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via habitat management and translocation (augmentation, re-introduction, introduction to secure tenure).

## Information required

| Theme                             | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Priority     |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Population surveys                | Conduct targeted surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations, especially after disturbance.<br>Monitor subpopulations in response to management actions and threats.                                          | High<br>High |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes | Determine the disturbance requirements of the species. Conduct trials within known habitat to determine requirements for germination and long-term survival considering fire regimes, competition, grazing and other disturbances such as flooding.            | High         |
| Life history and ecology          | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including soil seed bank dynamics, conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | Medium       |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                                     | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Priority     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Habitat protection                                        | Maintain protections over subpopulation in Shire reserve. Protection of this site will also benefit <i>Haloragis platycarpa</i> . Protect other known habitat or potential habitat in appropriate conservation agreements.                 | High         |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes/<br>lack of recruitment | Implement disturbance trials in known or historic habitat in an attempt to stimulate recruitment.                                                                                                                                          | High         |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations                | In the event of a recruitment event, collect seed from mature plants and propagate <i>ex situ</i> .<br>Establish translocated subpopulation in suitable habitat on secure tenure representing maximum range of genetic diversity possible. | High<br>High |
| Habitat quality                                           | Conduct activities to improve habitat quality within vicinity of known subpopulations by addressing threats including erosion, invasive weed management and increasing habitat connectivity between patches via revegetation.              | High         |



## Experts consulted

Bree Phillips, Andrew Crawford and Tanya Llorens.

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## *Eremophila subangustifolia* (A.P.Br. & T.M.Llorens) [SCROPHULARIACEAE]



*Eremophila subangustifolia* (clockwise from left) branch showing linear-subterete leaves, spreading habit of mature individuals, long flower pedicel and pale lilac flowers (images: Andrew Brown).

### Overview

*Eremophila subangustifolia* was previously considered to sit within *E. microtheca*, but was described at species level in 2017. It is currently listed as *E. sp. Narrow leaves* (J.D. Start D12-150) federally. The two remaining subpopulations occur in a heavily cleared landscape in highly modified habitat. This short-lived disturbance opportunist undergoes natural fluctuations in abundance due to flooding, however one subpopulation has declined dramatically since 1992, apparently due to limited recruitment, habitat modification and grazing of seedlings.

### Conservation status

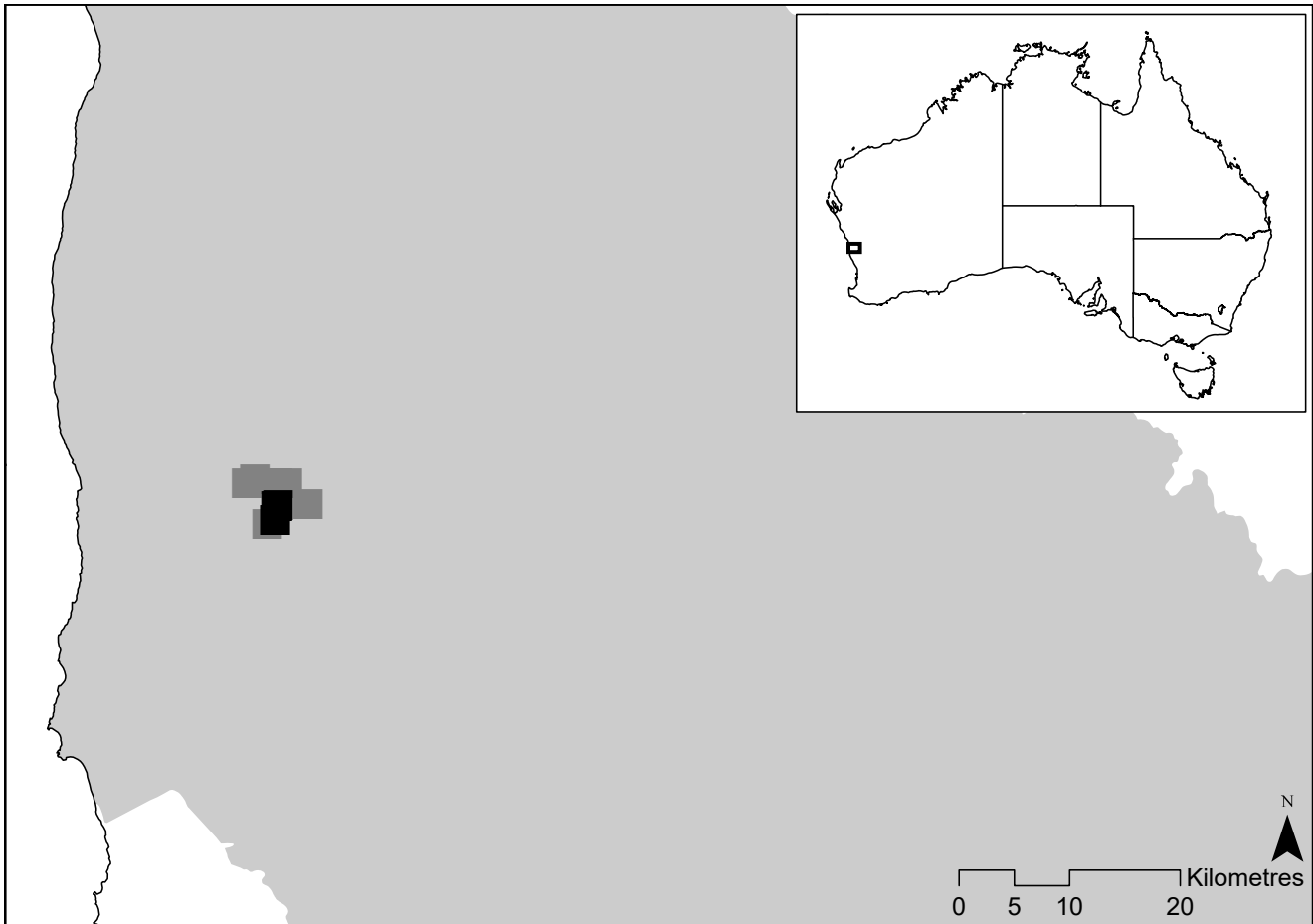
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Erect to spreading shrub 2.5 m tall and 4 m wide with many grey and hairy branches (Brown *et al.* 2018). Leaves are hairy, aromatic, 6-17 mm long and 0.5-1.0 mm wide, scattered along branches. Solitary pale-purple flowers 12-15 mm long and 8-12 mm wide emerge from leaf axils, forming dry, glabrous fruit (Brown *et al.* 2018). *Eremophila subangustifolia* was formerly known as the southern occurrence of *E. microtheca*, but molecular and morphological evidence resulted in its recognition as the subspecies *E. microtheca* subsp. narrow leaves (J.D.Start D12-150), later elevated to *E. sp. Narrow leaves* (J.D. Start D12-150). *Eremophila subangustifolia* is similar to *E. microtheca*, but has a larger, more spreading habit, longer narrower leaves, longer flower pedicels and larger flowers. It does not grow with or near other species in *E. sect. Australophilae* (Brown *et al.* 2018).

## Distribution

*Eremophila subangustifolia* is known from a very restricted distribution near Eneabba in the Geraldton Sandplains bioregion of south-western Western Australia (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020).



Current (black squares) and historical (grey squares) distribution of *Eremophila subangustifolia* in the Geraldton Sandplains bioregion (shaded grey) in Western Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Eremophila subangustifolia* is known from 81 individuals in two subpopulations (DBCA 2020). The narrowly separated subpopulations were probably part of a larger population prior to land clearing (Brown *et al.* 2018). Subpopulation 1 had between 20 and 65 plants recorded from 1985 and 1996. In 1999, a flood submerged the entire subpopulation and killed all plants, but the flood and subsequent roadworks to raise the height of the causeway stimulated germination from the soil seedbank, and the subpopulation appears to have recovered (DBCA 2020; T Llorens pers. comm. 2020). Subpopulation 2 has decreased from some 10 000 mature individuals in 1992, which had apparently germinated following land clearing but were heavily grazed, to 16 in 2014 (Brown *et al.* 2018). This decline appears to have been caused by a combination of a large flood in 1999 and grazing by stock, particularly of younger plants. Targeted surveys have been undertaken but no additional subpopulations have been located.

*Eremophila subangustifolia* monitoring data, 1985-2020 (DBCA 2020; Brown et al. 2018).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                                      | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                                                                                                               | Trend                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 (shire road reserve, nature reserve and private property) | 1985: 42<br>1986: 26<br>1990: 20<br>1992: >20<br>1996: 20<br>1999: 0 [entire population submerged]<br>2001: 0<br>2003: 42 (30)<br>2013: 65<br>2015: >38 (partial survey)<br>2020: >31 (partial survey) | Stable (with fluctuations) |
| 2 (private property)                                        | 1992: ca. 10 000<br>2003: 7<br>2014: 16                                                                                                                                                                | Decreasing                 |

## Habitat and ecology

*Eremophila subangustifolia* grows in slightly saline, pale brown sandy-clays on the margins of seasonally wet flats and lakes (Brown et al. 2018). Its habitat has been extensively modified through land clearing, roadworks and grazing. Associated species include *Acacia saligna*, *Casuarina obesa* and *Melaleuca raphiophylla* (Department of Parks and Wildlife 2016). Flowering mostly occurs from June to October (Brown et al. 2018). The species is thought to be relatively short-lived but generation length is unknown. Mortality due to flooding followed by mass germination appears to be part of the natural life cycle of this disturbance-opportunist. Due to its persistent soil seedbank, which is unlikely to be exhausted by a single event, extreme fluctuations are not likely for this species (IUCN 2019).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                   | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.48 km <sup>2</sup> )  | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                     | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.017 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                     | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 81                                         | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 2 (lack of recruitment)                    | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 2                                          | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| Generation length             | Unknown                                    | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                             | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                        | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                     | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion   | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A                | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                                 |
| B1+2ab(iii,iv,v) | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; and continuing decline observed and projected in area/extent and quality of habitat, number of subpopulations/locations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)           | EN: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <250 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                               |
| D                | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| E                | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                             |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                                              | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                                                    | n/a      | n/a      | n/a           | Habitat has been severely reduced and fragmented by land clearing for agriculture. The two remaining subpopulations may have once formed a single population, as each site is in an isolated area of remnant vegetation (DPW 2016). The species is considered severely fragmented as both subpopulations are very small and isolated by cleared land.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Lack of recruitment/<br>inappropriate<br>disturbance regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | Recruitment is limited at both subpopulations, apparently due to altered disturbance regimes (particularly flood characteristics due to changed hydrology) and post-germination threats (particularly sheep grazing). Plants are relatively short-lived and are thought to require periodic disturbance, primarily flooding and probably also fire, to stimulate germination of soil-stored seed (DPW 2016). The species is considered to occur at two locations as disturbance regimes and post-germination threats are managed at the subpopulation/ land tenure scale. |
| Grazing land<br>management<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                   | Majority | Rapid    | Medium        | The subpopulation on private property is subject to grazing and trampling by stock, which target young plants, and scrub rolling (DPW 2016). The subpopulation was fenced in the early 2000s, but by 2013 the fence was in disrepair, allowing stock to graze young plants and impact surrounding habitat.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Infrastructure<br>maintenance<br><i>Ongoing and future</i>                     | Majority | Rapid    | Medium        | The roadside habitat is highly disturbed and subject to grazing, spraying, slashing, road widening and raising of the causeway (T Llorens pers.comm. 2020). Plants occurring along the property boundary may be affected by fence and road maintenance activities including slashing, herbicide spraying and drainage channel construction (DPW 2016).                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                               | Whole    | Slow     | Medium        | The habitat of both subpopulations comprises a high cover of introduced grasses (T Llorens pers.comm. 2020), resulting in increased competition and fuel loads.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| Threat and timing                                   | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Altered hydrology/<br>salinisation<br><i>Future</i> | Whole | Unknown  | Unknown       | Hydrology has been altered in the habitat of the species due to land clearing and causeway construction. Long-term impacts are unknown, but are likely to include rising watertables and secondary salinisation (T Llorens pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                    |
| Stochastic events<br><i>Future</i>                  | Whole | Rapid    | Medium        | Flooding caused a decline in Subpopulation 1 but numbers have since recovered; the other subpopulation has declined due to both flooding and agricultural practices (T Llorens pers.comm. 2020). As the species only persists in two small subpopulations, it is vulnerable to stochastic events including future floods and prolonged drought. |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (DPW 2016; Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2018).
- Part of Subpopulation 1 is protected in a conservation reserve (DPW 2016).
- Approximately 11 156 fruits were collected from Subpopulation 1 between 1997 and 2017 and are stored for conservation and research purposes. The fruits are estimated to contain at least 9450 germinable seeds.
- Relevant stakeholders have been engaged to minimise damage to the subpopulations during road and fence maintenance.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Protect habitat of known subpopulations in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Improve habitat quality at both subpopulations.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via stimulating recruitment of soil-stored seed (if possible) and translocations (augmentation, re/introductions).

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Undertake targeted surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations, particularly after disturbance.                                                                                      | High     |
|                                            | Monitor response of subpopulations to recovery actions.                                                                                                                                                                               | High     |
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Undertake research to determine appropriate propagation methods to inform/support future translocations.                                                                                                                              | High     |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes          | Undertake research to better understand the disturbance requirements of the species.                                                                                                                                                  | High     |



## Management actions required

| Theme                                                     | Specific actions                                                                                                                                   | Priority |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                                        | Protect known and potential habitat in appropriate conservation agreements, and rehabilitate and fence degraded habitat.                           | High     |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes/<br>lack of recruitment | Implement disturbance into known habitat in an attempt to stimulate recruitment and increase the number of subpopulations/individuals in the wild. | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations                | Maintain and expand <i>ex situ</i> seed collections to represent maximum range of genetic diversity.                                               | High     |
|                                                           | Undertake translocations to secure tenure to increase the number of subpopulations in the wild.                                                    | High     |

## Experts consulted

Andrew Crawford and Tanya Llorens.

## References

- Australasian Virtual Herbarium (2020) '*Eremophila subangustifolia* specimen records'. (The Australasian Virtual Herbarium, Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria) Accessed at: [avh.chah.org.au](http://avh.chah.org.au) [Verified 20 October 2020]
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*Eriocaulon aloefolium* R.J.Davies [ERIOCAULACEAE]

*Eriocaulon aloefolium* in spring wetland habitat at Edgbaston Reserve, with pig damage in foreground (image: Rod Fensham).

## Overview

*Eriocaulon aloefolium* is restricted to a single Great Artesian Basin spring wetland in semi-arid central Queensland. The small population is vulnerable to feral pig disturbance and monitoring indicates the number of individuals declined between 2013 and 2018. A translocated subpopulation has been established in artificial spring wetlands close by, and further monitoring will inform threats, population trends and management requirements.

## Conservation status

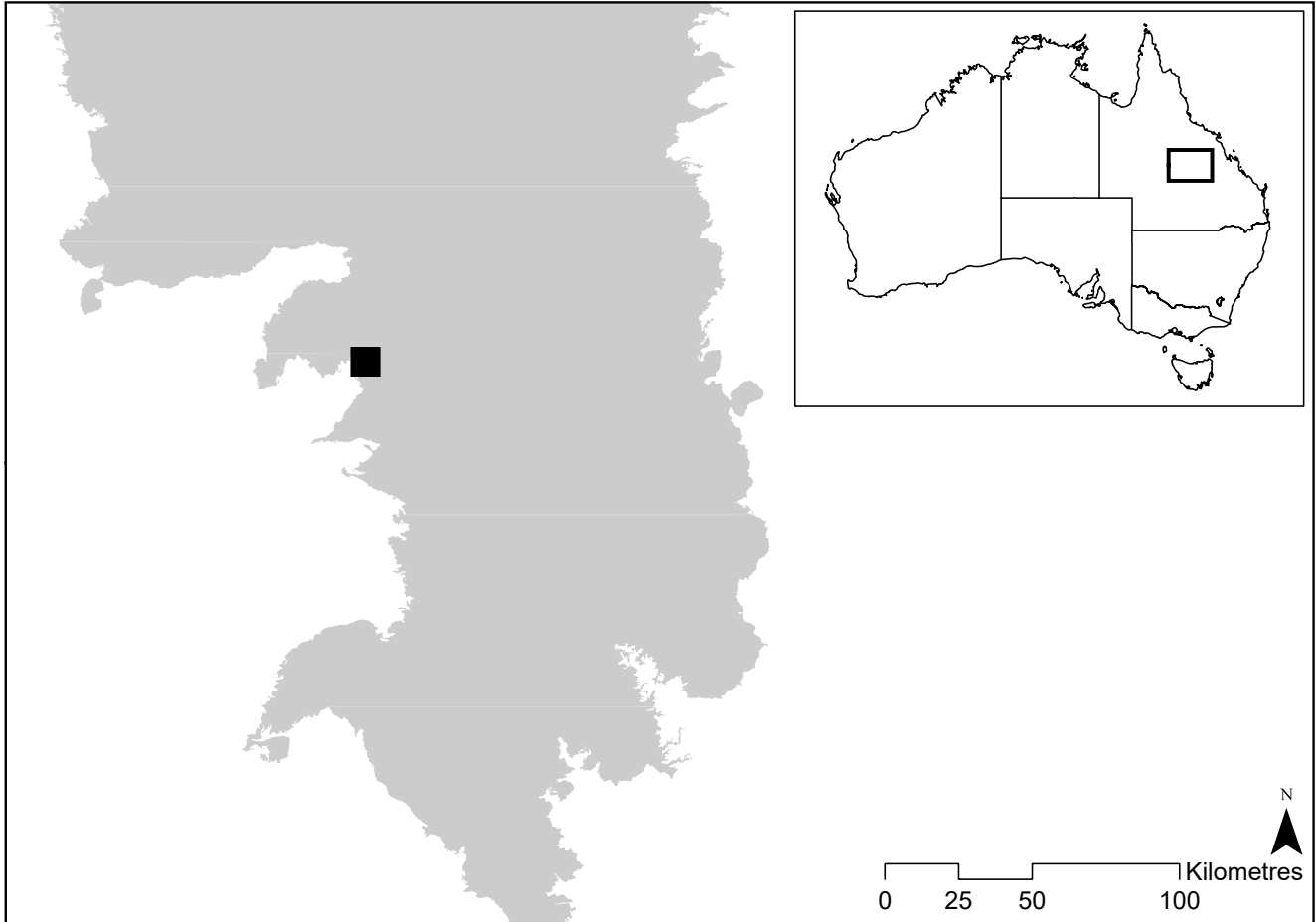
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Not listed                         |
| <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>                                  | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

## Brief description

Perennial tussock-forming herb 14-36 cm high (Davies *et al.* 2007). Leaves lanceolate, 40-94 (rarely 160) mm long, 10-19 mm wide at base, 0.8-1.6mm wide 1 mm from apex with 11-13 nerves and a fleshy broad, flat base. Peduncles 12.8-34.5 cm long with 7-8 ribs. Flowerheads are hemispherical, 9-12 mm long and 8-17 mm wide, with 1-3 rings of ≈270 female flowers alternating with 1-3 rings of ≈210 male flowers, appearing white due to long hairs. Seeds ellipsoid, 0.7-0.8 mm long and 0.5-0.6 mm wide, not smooth nor shiny, faintly reticulate (Davies *et al.* 2007). *Eriocaulon aloefolium* is unique in the *E. carsonii* complex by having significantly longer involucral bracts, floral bracts, sepal and petals, and significantly broader floral hairs (Davies *et al.* 2007).

## Distribution

*Eriocaulon aloefolium* is known from a single Great Artesian Basin spring in the Barcaldine Supergroup north-east of Aramac in the Desert Uplands bioregion of Queensland (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012). All springs in the Barcaldine Supergroup have been surveyed, and unrecorded subpopulations are unlikely (Fensham *et al.* 2016). *Eriocaulon aloefolium* is considered severely fragmented due to its occurrence in an isolated oasis within a semi-arid landscape (IUCN 2019).



Current distribution of *Eriocaulon aloefolium* (black square) in the Desert Uplands bioregion (shaded grey) of Queensland (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012).

## Population estimate and trends

*Eriocaulon aloefolium* typically forms clumps of 4-6 rosettes joined by short rhizomes, which are considered individuals for monitoring purposes. The species is restricted to a single subpopulation covering ca. 1500 m<sup>2</sup> (30 x 50 m area). The number of mature individuals has fluctuated since 2010, with 1274 clumps in 2010, 2588 clumps in 2013 and 1558 clumps in 2018 (P Foreman, R Fensham, J Silcock unpublished data). However, the mean number of rosettes per clump was highest in 2010 (6.08) and lowest in 2018 (4.3), indicating an overall decline, although further monitoring is required to distinguish fluctuations from long-term trends. These fluctuations are not considered extreme as they do not vary by an order of magnitude (IUCN 2019).

*Eriocaulon aloefolium* monitoring data, 2010-2018 (P Foreman, R Fensham, J Silcock unpublished data).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                             | Number of clumps (rosettes)                                          | Trend          |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 Edgbaston Reserve (private conservation reserve) | 2010: 1274 clumps (7746)<br>2013: 2588 (12 883)<br>2018: 1588 (6699) | Decreasing (?) |



## Habitat and ecology

*Eriocaulon aloefolium* grows in a Great Artesian Basin spring wetland, in permanent shallow water alongside *Phragmites australis*, *Sporobolus pamelae*, *Myriophyllum artesium*, on the spring vent with *E. carsonii*, and on the spring tail with *Fimbristylis dichotoma*, *Cyperus laevigatus*, *Myriophyllum artesium* and *E. carsonii* (J Silcock pers. comm. 2020). The spring occurs on a scalded plain dotted with *Melaleuca bracteata* clumps (J Silcock pers. comm. 2020). *Eriocaulon aloefolium* appears to require variegated habitat including open areas adjacent to small pools (J Silcock pers. comm. 2020). Lifespan and thus generation length is unknown.

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                   | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.002 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                     | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.002 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                     | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 1588                                       | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | Medium      |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (feral pigs)                             | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                     | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 1                                          | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                     | High        |
| Generation length             | Unknown                                    | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | No                                         | High        |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                        | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Projected                                  | Medium      |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                              |
| B1+2ab(iii,v)  | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; and continuing decline projected in quality of habitat and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(ii)        | EN: <2500 mature individuals; continuing decline projected; and 90-100% (100%) of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                                            |
| D2             | VU: AOO <20 km <sup>2</sup> ; <5 locations; and plausible future threat.                                                                                                              |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                          |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                              | Scope | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aquifer drawdown<br><i>Past</i>                | n/a   | n/a        | n/a           | Since colonisation, many springs in the Barcaldine Supergroup and across the GAB have become extinct, or have greatly reduced flow volume and wetland area due extraction of aquifer water through pastoral bores. Undocumented subpopulations of <i>E. aloefolium</i> may have existed in now-extinct or modified springs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Feral herbivores (pigs)<br><i>Suspended</i>    | Whole | Very rapid | High          | Feral pigs can rapidly plough the soil of an entire spring; trampling vegetation, defoliating plants and exposing plant roots. <i>Eriocaulon aloefolium</i> is especially vulnerable to these impacts because it occurs in a single spring and its fleshy roots appear to be targeted. Impacts vary seasonally; from highly disturbed to virtually untouched, and <i>E. aloefolium</i> is able to recover from severe pig disturbance. The spring wetland was fenced in 2018 in response to escalating pig impacts, although ongoing maintenance will be necessary to prevent breaches. Periodic disturbance may also maintain open habitat for <i>E. aloefolium</i> to colonise. In the absence of disturbance, mat-forming <i>E. carsonii</i> or <i>P. australis</i> (which dominates the vent) may become more prevalent. Appropriate disturbance mechanisms and intervals are not well-understood and require further monitoring and research. |
| Future groundwater extraction<br><i>Future</i> | Whole | Rapid      | Medium        | Although many pastoral bores have been capped, future demands for groundwater for extractive industries may arise – as is the case for the nearby Doongmabulla springs. Future water extraction may reduce aquifer pressure and cause spring extinction.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Current management

- Recovery actions are identified in the GAB springs recovery plan (Fensham *et al.* 2010).
- Edgbaston Reserve is managed by Bush Heritage Australia for conservation of spring ecosystems and their dependent species, including *E. aloefolium*, which is continually monitored (P Kern pers.comm. 2020).
- Feral pigs are regularly controlled through a trapping and baiting program.
- A translocated subpopulation has been established from rhizomes/clumps of plants at artificial springs, which were created as habitat for an insurance population of the critically endangered red-finned blue-eye fish *Scaturiginichthys vermeilipinnis*.
- All springs in the Barcaldine Supergroup have been surveyed for threatened flora.
- Most bores in the area have been capped, and spring wetland area appears to be increasing in association with aquifer pressure (R Fensham, B Laffineur unpublished data). Continued monitoring will further inform these trends.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations (wild and translocated).
- Expand *ex situ* subpopulation for seed collection.
- Better understand the biology, ecology and population trends of the species to inform threat management.

## Information required

| Theme                    | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Priority |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys       | Population monitoring every 3-5 years to determine population trends in response to threats and management actions, particularly fencing.                                                                                                              | High     |
| Life history and ecology | Undertake research to better understand the biology, ecology and threats to the species including conservation genetics, seed production and viability, germination requirements, specific habitat requirements and long-term response to disturbance. | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                    | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                         | Continue feral pig control as required and monitor fence for breaches. Ensure that sufficient open habitat for the species is maintained.                           | High     |
|                                            | Proposals that may affect aquifer pressure in the area need to be thoroughly assessed and not permitted where there are potential impacts on the spring ecosystems. | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Maintain translocated subpopulation in artificial spring wetland.                                                                                                   | High     |
|                                            | Collect and store seed representing the maximum range of genetic diversity possible.                                                                                | High     |

## Experts consulted

Rod Fensham, Paul Foreman, Pippa Kern and Jen Silcock.

## References

- Australasian Virtual Herbarium (2020) '*Eriocaulon aloefolium* specimen records'. (The Australasian Virtual Herbarium, Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria) Accessed at: [avh.chah.org.au](http://avh.chah.org.au) [Verified 20 October 2020]
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*Eucalyptus dalveenica* T.L.Collins, R.L.Andrew & J.J.Bruhl  
 [MYRTACEAE]  
 Dalveen blue box



*Eucalyptus dalveenica* fruit (top left), buds (bottom left; images: Tim Collins) and stand of trees on private property near Dalveen (right; image: John Neldner).

**Overview**

*Eucalyptus dalveenica* was previously included within *E. magnificata* but was described and assigned species status in 2019 after genetic, phytochemical and morphological analysis. It is restricted to a small patch of remnant vegetation across three private properties and a roadside reserve. Past decline has occurred due to its association with fertile soils, which have largely been converted to cropping land. Declines are continuing due to clearing and dieback from an unknown cause. The species has high recovery potential as there is recruitment occurring and seed is viable, but conservation agreements and restoration plantings are urgently needed.

**Conservation status**

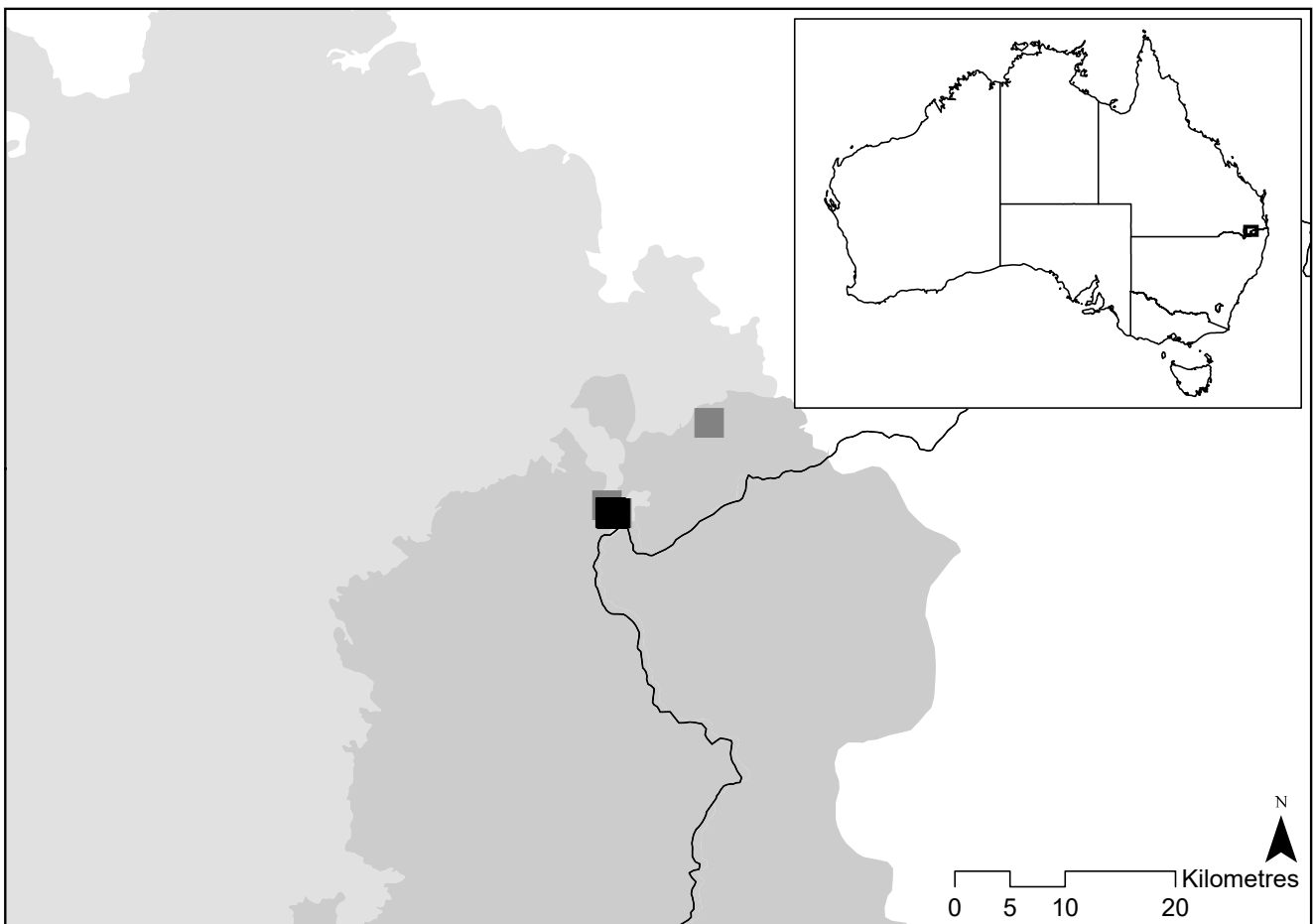
|                                                                      |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Not listed            |
| <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>                                  | Critically Endangered |
| IUCN Red List                                                        | Critically Endangered |

## Brief description

Tree to 15 m tall with light grey, flaky, 'box' bark that becomes smooth on branches <50 mm in diameter (Collins *et al.* 2019). Leaves slightly glossy, concolorous, broadly lanceolate, 10-15 cm long and 2.6-4.1 cm wide, with an acuminate apex and visible intramarginal veins. Inflorescence terminal or sometimes axillary, with up to 6 clusters of 7 flowers. Floral buds 9-12 mm long and 4-4.5 mm wide, calyptra hemispherical to conical. Fruit conical, 7-9.8 mm long and 6.2-7.8 mm wide with 3-4 valves and dark brown seeds (Collins *et al.* 2019). *Eucalyptus dalveenica* is distinguished from *E. baueriana* and *E. magnificata* by its acute seedling leaf apices, shorter bud pedicels and the mild, fruity aroma of its crushed leaves (Collins *et al.* 2019).

## Distribution

*Eucalyptus dalveenica* is known from a very restricted distribution near the town of Dalveen bordering the Nandewar and New England Tablelands bioregions of southern Queensland (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment; Collins *et al.* 2019).



Current (black squares) and historic (grey squares) distribution of *Eucalyptus dalveenica*, which currently occurs on the boundary of the Nandewar (shaded light grey) and New England Tablelands (shaded dark grey) bioregions of southern Queensland (AVH 2020; Collins *et al.* 2019; DAWE 2012; Booth and Bourne 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Eucalyptus dalveenica* was described in 2019 when it was known from <100 mature individuals (Collins *et al.* 2019). Approximately 220 mature individuals were counted in the first census in 2008, which increased to 244 in 2019 as juveniles matured (Booth and Bourne 2020). The single subpopulation is spread over three neighbouring properties and extends onto an adjacent road reserve. In 2020, another stand of *E. dalveenica* was confirmed on property nearby, although this remains unsurveyed (C Booth pers.comm. 2020).

A historical decline of >90% has been estimated based on the species' association with fertile soils that have been extensively cleared in the region (Fensham *et al.* 2020). A historical collection record at Cherry Gully cannot be relocated (Booth and Bourne 2020). Recent declines have been documented, with three previously unrecorded trees identified next to a fence in 2019, within a paddock that was largely cleared between 2012 and 2018 (Booth and Bourne 2020). The understorey of Subpopulation 1b was also cleared prior to property sale in 2019, which would have killed any juvenile plants (Booth and Bourne 2020).

Although some recruitment has been documented from 2008-2019, the security of the population is tenuous as it occurs almost exclusively on private land where clearing can rapidly occur under certain circumstances. Surveys of historical collection records and other accessible habitat in the area have failed to locate additional plants. However, more stands may be located in surveys of private property in the region.

*Eucalyptus dalveenica* monitoring data, 2008-2019 (Booth and Bourne 2020; Collins *et al.* 2019; Holmes and Holmes 2008; SRWC 2019).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                     | Number of mature individuals (dead)* | Trend            |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1a Butler Lane (freehold)                  | 2008: 120<br>2019: 168               | Unknown          |
| 1b Granite Belt Drive – garden (freehold)  | 2008: 55<br>2019: 50                 | Unknown          |
| 1c Granite Belt Drive – remnant (freehold) | 2008: 40<br>2019: 23                 | Unknown          |
| 1d Hamilton Road (freehold)                | 2019: 3                              | Unknown          |
| 1e Granite Belt Road (roadside reserve)    | 2008: 2<br>2015: 1<br>2019: 0 [1]    | Presumed extinct |

\*Note: dead trees were present at subpopulations other than 1e in 2019 but were not counted (C Booth pers.comm. 2020). Juvenile plants are present but have not been counted at any subpopulation.

## Habitat and ecology

*Eucalyptus dalveenica* occurs on fertile clay soils with impeded drainage in open woodlands with *E. moluccana* (Collins *et al.* 2019). The ecology of *E. dalveenica* is not well-documented. Well-developed buds have been observed in June, indicating flowering occurs in spring and early summer (Collins *et al.* 2019). The species may also reproduce clonally, as juvenile plants appear to grow from root suckers within 1 m (and sometimes further) from parent plants (T Collins pers.comm. 2019). Generation length is unknown, but is likely to be at least 70 years (Fensham *et al.* 2020).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                 | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.4 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.4 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 244 (plus 1 unsurveyed stand)            | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (habitat loss)                         | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 1                                        | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| Generation length             | >70 years                                | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | No                                       | High        |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                      | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Inferred and projected                   | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A4ce           | CR: >80% reduction inferred within 3 generations (210 years); based on decline in AOO, EOO and habitat quality (see Booth and Bourne 2020; Fensham <i>et al.</i> 2020).                                                                                           |
| B1ab(i-v)      | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; continuing decline inferred and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(ii)        | EN: <2500 mature individuals; continuing decline inferred and projected; and 90-100% (100%) of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                                                                           |
| D              | VU: <1000 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                           | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Infrastructure maintenance/ roadside threats<br><i>Past</i> | n/a      | n/a        | n/a           | One stand of trees occurred along a road reserve where it was vulnerable to roadside threats, but is now presumed extinct.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past and ongoing</i>                     | Whole    | Very rapid | High          | Land clearing for agriculture has severely reduced and fragmented the available habitat of the species. All individuals occur in a restricted patch of (now fragmented) remnant vegetation isolated by cleared land. The understorey of Subpopulation 1b was removed in 2019, which may have caused losses of juvenile plants and reduced habitat quality. Approximately 3.6 ha directly next to a patch of remnant trees was cleared in recent years (Collins 2016). Some trees have been incorporated into garden beds surrounded by lawn areas, and are vulnerable to future clearing (Collins 2016). No stands occur on protected estate and clearing can occur under certain circumstances (Evans 2016). As all individuals can be rapidly affected by this threat, the species occurs at one location (IUCN 2019). |
| Dieback<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                   | Majority | Slow       | Medium        | Dieback has been observed during both drought and non-drought periods. Moderate dieback was observed in 2015, a non-drought period (T Collins unpublished data) and high stress levels were observed during drought in 2019 in 17% (1a), 20% (1b) and 30% (1c) of plants (SRWC 2019).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## Current management

- There is no recovery plan for this species.
- Research into the taxonomy (morphology, phytochemistry and molecular analysis), demography, seed viability and threats has been undertaken by Tim Collins (Collins 2016).
- Monitoring surveys have been commissioned by Queensland Murray-Darling Committee in 2008 (Holmes and Holmes 2008) and by the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium in 2019 (SRWC 2019).
- Seed viability is high and propagation has been occurring with individuals planted in local gardens and the school at Dalveen.



## Conservation objectives

- Establish conservation covenants over habitat of *E. dalveenica*.
- Ensure no further clearing of the species and its habitat.
- Increase the number of self-sustaining subpopulations in the wild via translocation to suitable habitat in secure tenure. As there are no suitable reserves in the region (C Booth pers.comm. 2020), land acquisition or conservation covenants are necessary.
- Involve local community in conservation of the species.
- Determine causes of dieback and implement management strategies to mitigate this threat.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Priority             |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Population surveys                         | Undertake surveys to locate additional stands.<br>Urgently survey the newly located stand on private property.<br>Regularly monitor the population to better understand demographics, and response to threats and management actions.                                                                               | High<br>High<br>High |
| Dieback                                    | Undertake research to better understand the cause of dieback in the population.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | High                 |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Liaise with local community groups to determine potential areas for translocations (revegetation) projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                         | High                 |
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including the relative importance of asexual and sexual reproduction; pollination biology (including mating system), germination under natural conditions, habitat suitability for translocations and appropriate fire regimes. | High                 |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Priority               |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Habitat protection                         | Protect all individuals on freehold land under appropriate conservation agreements. If additional stands are located, ensure these are also protected.                                                                                                                                                                                                             | High                   |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Collect and propagate seed (ideally alongside SRWC) in <i>ex situ</i> collection ensuring maximum range of genetic diversity possible is captured.<br>Undertake conservation plantings into recipient sites with local community groups. Maintain plantings until established by weeding, watering, mulching etc.                                                  | High<br>High           |
| Extension and awareness                    | Maintain engagement with landholders and conservation groups.<br>Engage local community groups and landholders in conservation activities (e.g. <i>ex situ</i> plantings, re-vegetation projects especially around extant stands).<br>Raise awareness of the species with local stakeholders and conservation groups in attempts to locate additional occurrences. | High<br>High<br>Medium |

## Experts consulted

Tim Collins, Rose Andrew, Jeremy Bruhl and Carol Booth.

## References

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## *Eucalyptus imlayensis* (Crisp & Brooker) [MYRTACEAE] Imlay mallee, Mt Imlay mallee



*Eucalyptus imlayensis* growth habit (left; image: Brooker & Kleinig © Australian Plant Image Index, Australian National Botanic Gardens) and peeling bark (right; image: M Crisp © APLI, ANBG).

### Overview

*Eucalyptus imlayensis* occurs in a single population on the isolated peak of Balawan (Mount Imlay) in south-eastern New South Wales. The population is declining due to dieback from an unknown source. Establishing an insurance subpopulation is challenging given the low level of seed production, and all translocated individuals were killed in severe fires in 2020.

### Conservation status

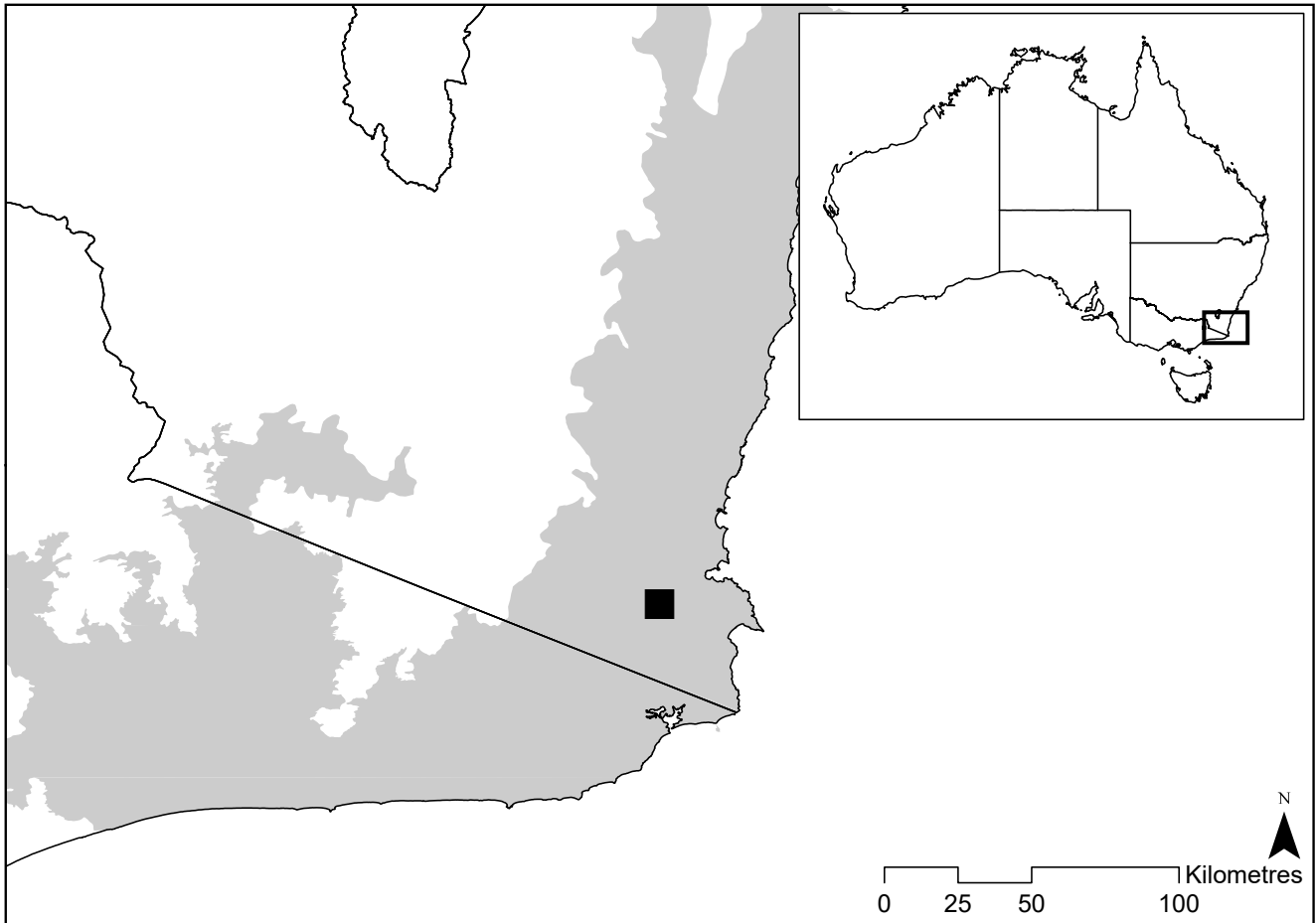
|                                                                      |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered            |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered |
| IUCN Red List                                                        | Critically Endangered |

### Brief description

Mallee to 7 m tall forming a large lignotuber with a dense canopy (Crisp and Brooker 1980). Smooth green bark weathers to orange-brown to grey and sheds in ribbons. Leaves with strongly flattened petioles to 1.5 cm clustered towards ends of branchlets. Lamina thick, lanceolate and falcate, 10-15 cm long and 1.5-2 cm wide with few oil glands. Inflorescences axillary, with flower buds in groups of three on a short peduncle with conical to slightly beaked operculums. Fruit sessile with a prominent disc and exerted valves, and smooth dark grey seed. *Eucalyptus imlayensis* is similar to *E. subcrenulata* but has ascending discs on the fruit. It also differs from *E. baeuerlenii* by its narrower, wingless seedling leaves, larger fruits and abruptly acuminate operculum (Crisp and Brooker 1980).

## Distribution

*Eucalyptus imlayensis* is known from the isolated peak of Balawan (Mt Imlay) near Eden in New South Wales, in the South East Corner bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012). The species is considered severely fragmented as it occurs in a single isolated population (IUCN 2019).



Current distribution (black square) of *Eucalyptus imlayensis* at Balawan (Mt Imlay) in the South East Corner bioregion (shaded grey) of southern New South Wales (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012).

## Population estimate and trends

*Eucalyptus imlayensis* was first recorded in 1977 from a small population of 70 'individuals' (Crisp and Brooker 1980). Genetic analysis has since established *E. imlayensis* exists as a multi-stemmed clonal population comprising five genetically distinct individuals (James and McDougall 2007). For clonal species, population abundance is measured by the number of distinct reproductive units (i.e. stems; IUCN 2019). Currently, there are 80 stems over an area of approximately 1000 m<sup>2</sup>, and this has been declining since regular monitoring began in 1998 (James and McDougall 2007). In March 2001, almost one-third of stems were estimated to have >50% crown death; by 2001, the mean proportion of dead branchlets on stems had increased significantly (James and McDougall 2007). This decline is continuing, with the death of an estimated 15% of clones since 2000 (K McDougall pers.comm. 2017). Assuming a constant rate of decline (15% over 20 years), a population reduction of >90% is projected within 100 years.

Other mountains in the region were searched before the species was described, but the habitat was unsuitable and other subpopulations were not located (Crisp and Brooker 1980).

## Habitat and ecology

*Eucalyptus imlayensis* occurs on the eastern slopes of Balawan (Mt Imlay) at 850-870 m above sea level (Crisp and Brooker 1980). It grows on steep terrain amongst granite rocks and dense shrubland dominated by *Leptospermum scoparium* (AVH 2020). The habitat receives a large amount of orographic moisture (Crisp and Brooker 1980). Associated species include *Boronia imlayensis*, *Cassytha pubescens*, *Derwentia perfoliata*, *Dianella tasmanica*, *Doodia media*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Melaleuca squarrosa*, *Oxylobium ellipticum* and *Prostanthera walteri* (AVH 2020).

*Eucalyptus imlayensis* is a relict species (Crisp and Brooker 1980) and may be adapted for survival in the single, small, isolated population. However, it is considered severely fragmented given that dispersal outside its isolated, or recolonisation following extinction, is unlikely (IUCN 2019). Reproduction is predominantly asexual with most stems arising from a small number of genetically distinct plants (James and McDougall 2007). Seedlings or juveniles have not been documented and germination is presumably a very rare event. Flowers appear annually during mid-summer, but have also been observed in May. However fruit production is rare, and capsules contain few seeds (James and McDougall 2007). The mechanisms for maintaining genetic diversity are not well-understood, but even occasional sexual reproduction in long-lived species can be sufficient for maintaining genetic diversity (James and McDougall 2007).

Wasp galls have been observed on leaves and may contribute to poor vigour, but are not considered a significant threat. Under controlled conditions, *E. imlayensis* was tolerant to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, which occurs at the population (Liew and McDougall unpublished data). The entire population burnt severely in 2020 but most plants have regenerated from lignotubers, although there are no new mature stems and all translocated plants were killed (K McDougall pers. comm. 2020). *Eucalyptus imlayensis* is a long-lived tree. The very large lignotubers that are moulded around and between the quartzite rocks of Balawan (Mt Imlay) (Crisp and Brooker 1980), plus the large distance between clones (>10 m), indicates the species can probably live for hundreds of years (K McDougall pers. comm. 2020).

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                   | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.001 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                     | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.001 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 80                                         | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (dieback)                                | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                     | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 1                                          | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                     | High        |
| Generation length             | >100 years                                 | Medium      |
| Extreme fluctuations          | No                                         | High        |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                        | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and estimated                     | High        |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A4ac           | CR: >80% reduction projected in past and future (15% observed in past from 2000-2020 and 75% estimated in next 100 years); based on direct observation and decline in habitat quality.                                                     |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; continuing decline observed and estimated in EOO, AOO, area/extent/quality of habitat, number of locations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(ii)        | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and estimated; 100% of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                                                                   |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                               |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                    | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Infrastructure development<br><i>Past</i>            | n/a      | n/a        | n/a           | Two developments were proposed on Balawan (Mt Imlay) (possibly telecommunication towers), but were averted due to the documentation of the species (Crisp and Brooker 1980).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Dieback (cause unknown)<br><i>Ongoing</i>            | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | Fifteen percent of clones have died since 2000 from an unknown cause (K McDougall pers.comm. 2020). As all individuals in the population are affected by dieback, the species occurs at one location.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Lack of recruitment<br><i>Ongoing</i>                | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | Establishment from seed is probably a naturally rare event, with no seed observed over a 4 year period (James and McDougall 2007). In the absence of recruitment, the population will continue to decline due to dieback.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Insect damage<br><i>Ongoing</i>                      | Majority | Slow       | Low           | An unknown species of wasp occasionally causes galls on the leaves of most individuals, and may be contribute to poor health (James and McDougall 2007), but is not considered a major long-term threat (K McDougall pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Competition with native vegetation<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | Observed lack of recruitment and death of clones may be due to competition from dense native vegetation, but this hypothesis requires further evidence. After the 2020 fire, large numbers of <i>E. sieberi</i> (which is dominant upslope but was not present at the site previously) germinated within the <i>E. imlayensis</i> population; these seedlings will be removed, as their establishment would alter the local environment (K McDougall pers.comm. 2020). |
| Climate change<br><i>Ongoing</i>                     | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | Dieback may be associated with climatic drying due to climate change, which is projected to increase in severity in the future (Grose <i>et al.</i> 2015).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Limited genetic diversity<br><i>Ongoing</i>          | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | The genetic structure of <i>E. imlayensis</i> is largely the product of asexual reproduction, with only five genetically distinct individuals (James and McDougall 2007).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Stochastic events<br><i>Future</i>                   | Whole    | Very rapid | High          | Given the very restricted geographic range and small population size, the species is vulnerable to stochastic events such as prolonged drought or repeated severe wildfires.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <i>Disease Future</i>                                | Whole    | Slow       | Low           | <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> is present at the site and may affect plants when under stress but is not currently considered a major threat (K. McDougall pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## Current management

- There is no national recovery plan for this species (K McDougall pers.comm. 2020). Recovery actions are identified in the conservation advice (Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts 2008) and under the NSW Saving our Species strategy for the species (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020).
- The single subpopulation is protected in Mt Imlay National Park and monitoring is ongoing (NSW DPIE 2020).
- Research has been undertaken into the genetic variability within the subpopulation (James and McDougall 2007) and its susceptibility to phytophthora (Liew and McDougall unpublished data).
- The species has been propagated and translocated to nearby sites on Balawan (Mt Imlay) in a variety of microhabitats (NSW DPIE 2020), but all 37 surviving translocated plants were killed in the 2020 fire (K McDougall pers.comm. 2020).
- Seedlings of *Eucalyptus sieberi* that germinated post-fire will be removed (K McDougall pers.comm. 2020).

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain population.
- Establish *ex situ* subpopulation with all genotypes represented.
- Identify causes of decline and manage these threats.
- Identify reproductive system and germination requirements.
- Increase the number of individuals in the wild via augmentation of natural subpopulation.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Monitor population to better understand demographics, and response to threats and management actions.                                                                                                                                              | High     |
| Life history and ecology                   | Investigate reproductive system and identify limitations to producing fertile seed, as sexual reproduction may be advantageous for maintaining genetic variability essential to the long-term viability of the species (James and McDougall 2007). | High     |
|                                            | Conduct trials to determine requirements for successful germination via seed.                                                                                                                                                                      | High     |
| Genetic diversity                          | Analyse genomes of plants further downslope in an attempt to identify additional genotypes.                                                                                                                                                        | High     |
| Dieback                                    | Establish cause of dieback, including possible effects of vegetation competition.                                                                                                                                                                  | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Investigate potential sites for future translocations, if feasible.                                                                                                                                                                                | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                            | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Establish and maintain <i>ex situ</i> subpopulation representing the maximum range of genetic diversity feasible, to support future translocation attempts. | High     |
| Dieback                                    | Implement and maintain disease hygiene measures at the site.                                                                                                | High     |



## Experts consulted

Keith McDougall.

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## *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* Brett [MYRTACEAE] Morrisby's gum



Dieback of mature *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* trees in a fragmented agricultural landscape, with juveniles emerging following installation of an exclosure fence in 2017 (Image: Magali Wright).

### Overview

Extensive land use change had occurred within the habitat of *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* by the early 1990s, when only 2000 mature individuals were known. Between 2011 and 2016 the species declined drastically to <50 mature individuals. Recent declines are thought to be symptomatic of climatic drying, exacerbated by several other threats especially possum browsing. Recovery actions have included banding adult trees, wildlife-proof fencing to encourage recruitment, seed-banking, translocations and weed control. Considerable regeneration of juveniles has occurred at Calverts Hill where exclosure fencing has been installed, however ongoing maintenance is required. The subpopulation at Risdon Hills is expected to become extinct in the near future. Assisted migration is considered in the long-term conservation planning strategy for this species due to severe declines and lower planting success rates within the known species range.

### Conservation status

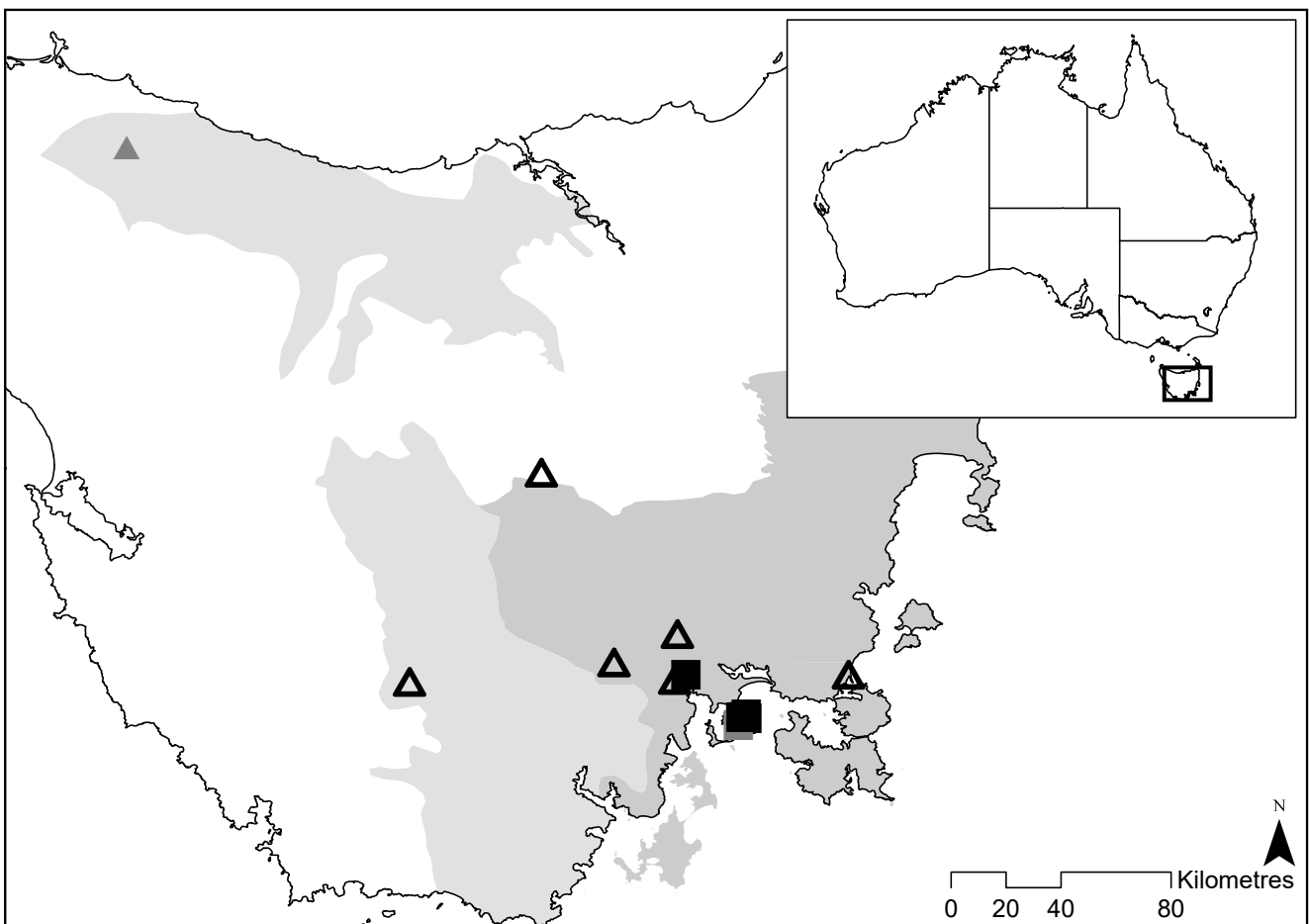
|                                                                      |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered            |
| <i>Threatened Species Act 1995</i>                                   | Endangered            |
| IUCN Red List                                                        | Critically Endangered |

## Brief description

Mallee (multi-stemmed tree with a lignotuberous base) or tree to 12 m with rough basal bark becoming smooth, brown, white-grey or pink-grey on the upper branches (Threatened Species Section 2006). Juvenile leaves are glaucous, opposite, unstalked, rounded, 2-3 cm long and 2-4 cm wide. Adult leaves alternate, 5-10 cm long and 1.5-4 cm wide. Flower buds are pointed and arise in clusters of three from the leaf axils. *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* is closely related to *E. gunnii*, *E. archeri*, *E. cordata* and *E. urnigera* (TSS 2006). It can be distinguished from *E. gunnii* and *E. archeri* by the more distinct bud/fruit pedicels and coastal distribution; from *E. cordata* by its smaller capsules that arise only in leaf axils; and from *E. urnigera* that has urceolate fruit (Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research 2020; TSS 2006). *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* is known to hybridise with *E. viminalis*, and the hybrids are readily distinguished by their narrower and less glaucous juvenile leaves (TSS 2006).

## Distribution

*Eucalyptus morrisbyi* is known from two subpopulations near Hobart, on the eastern side of the Derwent River in the Tasmanian South East bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012).



Current (black squares) and historic (grey square) distribution of *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* in the Tasmanian South East bioregion (shaded grey) near Hobart (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012). Several seed orchards have been established but are not considered self-sustaining subpopulations (hollow triangles) and one translocation has failed (grey triangle). Augmentation has occurred at the Calvert Hills subpopulation and the species has been introduced to the east of its range, but these are not yet considered self-sustaining (hollow triangles).

## Population estimate and trends

*Eucalyptus morrisbyi* is currently known from two subpopulations with fewer than 50 mature individuals. In 1991, the species was known from <2000 mature individuals (Wiltshire *et al.* 1991). There were approximately 1950 mature individuals over five sites at Cremorne, with the majority occurring in Calvert Hills Nature Reserve, and small remnant stands in Honeywood Drive, Lumeah Point, South Arm Road and Cremorne Avenue (TSS 2020). An additional stand was present at Risdon Hills, which comprised <20 mature individuals by 1996 (*Eucalyptus morrisbyi* Working Group 2018). Between 2011 and 2016, the population declined by >90%, and by 2018 there were seven mature trees at Calverts Hill and the Risdon Hills subpopulation was reduced to weak regrowth from lignotubers (EMWG 2018). There are approximately 2400 juvenile plants at Calverts Hill Nature Reserve (EMWG 2018). Since establishment of wildlife proof fencing at this site in 2017 these juveniles have grown considerably, with some reaching over 4 m in height (EMWG unpublished data).

The area has been well-surveyed and additional stands are unlikely to be found. Although *E. morrisbyi* has a clonal growth habit and the number of genetically distinct individuals is much lower than original population counts indicate (Jones *et al.* 2005), stems are considered separate reproductive units and thus individuals in this assessment (IUCN 2019).

In the early 1990s many community plantings in the species' known range and four large seed orchards were established (Wright in prep). There was low survival of community plantings, however the seed orchard plantings have been relatively successful (Wright in prep). The seed orchards are not considered self-sustaining as they are planted outside the species natural range, and the trees are planted close together with no natural recruitment (EMWG 2018).

*Eucalyptus morrisbyi* monitoring data, 1988-2020 (TSS 2006; TSS 2020; *Eucalyptus morrisbyi* Working Group 2019, R Wiltshire pers.comm. 2020, M Wright pers.comm. 2020).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                           | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                                                                                                 | Trend      |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1a Calverts Hill Nature Reserve (nature reserve) | 1991: 1915<br>2013: 833 (529 with some living canopy)<br>2014: 604 (368 with some living canopy)<br>2017: 7<br>2018: 7 (2 400)<br>2019: 6 (2 400)<br>2020: 6 (>2 400) + 550T and hybrids | Decreasing |
| 1b Lumeah Point (coastal reserve)                | 1991: 16<br>2020: 19 (52) + including hybrids                                                                                                                                            | Increasing |
| 1c Honeywood Drive (road reserve)                | 1991: 12*<br>2019: 8<br>2020: 5 (188) + many T                                                                                                                                           | Decreasing |
| 1d South Arm Road/ Delphis Drive (road reserve)  | 1991: 12*<br>2017: 6 +9T<br>2020: 0 (1) + many T and hybrids                                                                                                                             | Decreasing |
| 1e Cremorne Avenue (road reserve)                | 1991: 5<br>2019: 5 + many T and hybrids<br>2020: 13 (42)                                                                                                                                 | Stable     |
| 2 Risdon Hills (East Risdon State Reserve)       | 1996: <20 (69)<br>2002: 0 (81)<br>2014: 0 (219)<br>2020: 0 (102-125 lignotuber resprouts)                                                                                                | Decreasing |
| 3 (T) Oigles Road, Geeveston (State Forest)      | 1999: 568T<br>2003: 539T<br>2017: 299 T                                                                                                                                                  | Decreasing |
| 4 (T) Derwent Park, Lutana (private land)        | 1999: 585T<br>2003: 289T<br>2019: 129T                                                                                                                                                   | Decreasing |
| 5 (T) Boyer (private land)                       | 1990: 611T<br>2002: 438T<br>2012: High mortality observed                                                                                                                                | Decreasing |

| Subpopulation (tenure)              | Number of mature individuals (juveniles) | Trend                   |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 6 (T) Meunna (State Forest)         | 1990: 931T<br>1991: 420T<br>2015: 0      | No plants surviving     |
| 7 (T) Brighton (private land)       | 1993: 1000T<br>2019: >400T (>20)T        | Not yet self-sustaining |
| 8 (T) Derwent Valley (private land) | 1993: 1 000T<br>2019: >700T              | Not yet self-sustaining |
| 9 (T) Marion Bay (private land)     | 2019: 300T                               | Unknown                 |

Translocated individuals/subpopulation (T). \*Count is the summed total for Subpopulations 1c and 1d.

## Habitat and ecology

*Eucalyptus morrisbyi* grows on infertile soils in coastal dry sclerophyll woodland on gentle hillslopes (TSSC 2016). It tends to occupy gullies that are thought to provide some respite from moisture stress in this low rainfall region (TSSC 2016). At Cremorne, it grows on Jurassic dolerite and Quaternary sands and at Risdon Hill, it grows on Permian mudstones amongst *Acacia dealbata*, *A. melanoxylon* and *A. verticillata* (TSSC 2016). Flowering has been observed from February to May and flowers are pollinated by insects and birds (TSS 2006). Seedlings are rarely observed far from parent trees, indicating that seed dispersal is limited (TSSC 2016).

*Eucalyptus morrisbyi* has a lignotuber and can re-sprout following disturbance such as fire. Stems >3 m apart can belong to the same individual, and trees can live for >1000 years (Jones *et al.* 2004). Seedlings reach reproductive maturity within 10 years, and therefore generation length is estimated to be >300 years (Fensham *et al.* 2020).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                   | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 45 km <sup>2</sup>         | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                 | High        |
| Area of occupancy             | 8 km <sup>2</sup>          | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                 | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 43                         | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                 | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (climate change/dieback) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                 | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 2                          | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                 | High        |
| Generation length             | >300 years                 | Medium      |
| Extreme fluctuations          | No                         | High        |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                        | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Documented                 | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A2a            | CR: >80% reduction observed within 3 generations (>90% from 2011-2016) where causes of decline may not be reversible, are not understood; based on direct observation.                                                                                           |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; and continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of subpopulations/locations and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i,ii)      | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed; <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation; and 90-100% (100%) of individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                                                  |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                                     |



## Threats

| Threat and timing                       | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past and future*</i> | Minority | Rapid      | Low           | More than 50% of the species' habitat has been cleared for agriculture and urbanisation since European colonisation (TSSC 2016). The five stands at Cremorne are considered a single subpopulation that has been severely fragmented into smaller stands. The stand of trees at South Arm Road was recently bulldozed (R Wiltshire pers.comm. 2020). Another stand of trees on Honeywood Drive occurs on a roadside and is vulnerable to clearing in the future (TSS 2020).                                                                                |
| Climate change<br><i>Ongoing</i>        | Whole    | Very rapid | High          | <i>Eucalyptus morrisbyi</i> occupies relatively wet gullies in an area that receives <600 mm average annual rainfall (Bureau of Meteorology 2020; TSSC 2016). The species is known to be susceptible to drought stress, which has caused the severe decline at Risdon Hills (TSS 2006), and poor health in the Cremorne subpopulation. Warmer and drier conditions may also be facilitating increased levels of insect defoliation (TSS 2020). Drought duration is projected to increase with medium confidence (Grose <i>et al.</i> 2015).                |
| Grazing/browsing                        | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | Brushtail possums preferentially browse on regenerating foliage of <i>E. morrisbyi</i> at Cremorne (Mann <i>et al.</i> 2012), limiting the capacity of the species to recover from dieback (TSS 2020). Wildlife proof fencing at Calverts Hill Nature Reserve protecting remaining adults and juvenile plants requiring on-going monitoring and maintenance to remain possum free (Jones <i>et al.</i> 2020). Herbivory by sheep at Calverts Hill, and probably rabbits, is thought to have limited recruitment prior to their removal in 2000 (TSS 2006). |
| Insect defoliation                      | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | The species is vulnerable to insect attack (especially <i>Mnesampela privata</i> , <i>Teratosphaeria</i> spp., <i>Paropsisterna</i> spp. (Gosney <i>et al.</i> in TSSC 2016), <i>Gonipterus scutellatus</i> and <i>Uraba lugens</i> (EMWG unpublished data), which can result in tree dieback and death during drought periods (TSS 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Wildfire<br><i>Ongoing</i>              | Majority | Rapid      | Medium        | The extremely small number of mature <i>E. morrisbyi</i> are vulnerable to death due to wildfire, which has occurred in the species' habitat. Juveniles at Calverts Hill may not have the lignotuber reserves to resprout after fire (EMWG 2018). Conversely, fire may also be important for regeneration, although must be appropriately managed due to the range of other threats.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Hybridisation                           | Whole    | Slow       | Medium        | <i>Eucalyptus morrisbyi</i> is known to hybridise with <i>E. viminalis</i> , and hybrids are becoming more common at sites due to pollen swamping (TSSC 2016; TSS 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Competition                             | Whole    | Slow       | Medium        | Competition with weeds (downy dodder laurel) and dense native wattle regrowth limit the capacity of the species to recover from dieback and successfully recruit (TSSC 2016).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

\* Only future threat scored (see Section 2)

## Current management

- The recovery plan (TSS 2006) was published prior to the rapid decline at Calverts Hill Nature Reserve and current recovery actions are guided by the conservation advice (TSSC 2016) and a recently developed conservation plan (EMWG 2018). The species is listed as a priority species under the Australian Government's Threatened Species Strategy.
- Population monitoring has been undertaken by the University of Tasmania, Enviro-dynamics, NRM South and Wildcare's Threatened Plants Tasmania since 1991.
- Calverts Hill Nature Reserve was acquired as Nature Reserve in 1999, with sheep removed and the area fenced in 2000.
- In response to the recent decline at Calverts Hill Nature Reserve, wildlife proof fencing was established in 2017 by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and has been monitored and maintained on an ongoing basis, with possum trapping and relocation in response to incursions.
- The stand at Calverts Hill Nature Reserve is protected from wildfire through the establishment of fire breaks and fuel reduction activities.
- Seed has been collected and stored for conservation. Genetic analysis of plants in seed orchards and community plantings has been undertaken by the University of Tasmania and supports seed collection activities. A seed orchard on private property was rediscovered in 2019 and represents a diverse source of seed for future translocation efforts. Seed collection from other seed orchards and wild sub-populations is also ongoing.
- Preliminary climatic niche modelling has been undertaken by the University of Tasmania, Greening Australia and the Centre For Forest Value to guide translocation site selection.
- Plants have been propagated and used in augmentation and restoration plantings by the Understorey Network, Conservation Volunteers Australia, the University of Tasmania, Greening Australia, Enviro-dynamics and NRM South. Four translocations are planned in the future climate range of the species plus additional augmentation of the Calvert Hills site (EMWG 2018, TSS 2020).
- Weed control has been undertaken at Calverts Hill Nature Reserve and is ongoing.

## Conservation objectives

- Recovery actions have been developed with the goal of down-listing the species to Endangered by 2038 (EMWG 2018).
- Monitor known subpopulations.
- Maintain wildlife proof fences at Calverts Hill Nature Reserve.
- Protect remain adult plants at Calverts Hill Nature Reserve from extreme, hot dry conditions through watering and mulching.
- Protect the stand at Calverts Hill Nature Reserve from wildfire while juvenile plants mature.
- Continue translocations to increase population abundance and connect stands in the Cremorne area.
- Undertake assisted migration into the future climate range of the species.
- Continue seed banking and maintain existing seed orchards to preserve genetic diversity.
- Better understand the species' ecology and causes of decline in the population.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Monitor known population to understand population trends in relation to threats.                                                                                                                                                  | High     |
|                                            | Undertake regular surveys to determine if recruitment is occurring within subpopulations.                                                                                                                                         | High     |
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations.                                                                | High     |
|                                            | Undertake research to determine drivers of severe insect defoliation.                                                                                                                                                             | High     |
|                                            | Investigate role of fire as possible regeneration strategy at the Risdon Hills subpopulation (TSS 2020).                                                                                                                          | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Continue research to determine suitable habitat for translocations that may be less vulnerable to climatic drying, including field trials examining assisted migration and provenancing strategies to maximise adaptive capacity. | High     |



## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                          | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Climate change                             | Undertake assisted migration through translocations into the future climate range for the species.                                                                        | High     |
|                                            | Protect remaining adults at Calverts Hill Nature Reserve through watering and mulching                                                                                    | High     |
| Wildfire                                   | Continue fuel reduction and firebreak maintenance to protect the stand Calverts Hill Nature Reserve.                                                                      | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Continue to collect and store seed representing maximum range of genetic diversity possible.                                                                              | High     |
|                                            | Continue to propagate individuals for translocations.                                                                                                                     | High     |
| Browsing/grazing                           | Maintain fencing around Calverts Hill Nature Reserve prevent mammal browsing (brush-tailed possums).                                                                      | High     |
|                                            | Trial augmentation of the Calverts Hill subpopulation with the Risdon Hills genotypes, that are less susceptible to browsing by possums to increase population abundance. | High     |
|                                            | Establishing fencing around species to promote recruitment on private land adjacent to roadside remnants.                                                                 | Medium   |
| Hybridisation                              | Identify and remove hybrids from subpopulations (especially seedlings) to reduce current/future pollen swamping.                                                          | Medium   |
| Invasive weeds                             | Control invasive weeds at all sites, especially serrated tussock at Calverts Hill.                                                                                        | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Magali Wright, Wendy Potts and Robert Wiltshire.

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## *Eucalyptus ornans* Rule & Molyneux [MYRTACEAE] Avon peppermint



*Eucalyptus ornans* community along the Dooyeedang (Avon River) prior to 2007 (image: Kevin Rule).

### Overview

*Eucalyptus ornans* occurs in a single population along a river bank that is susceptible to occasional severe flooding. In 2007, a flood reduced the population from an estimated 70 to 10 individuals. Recovery options are limited to *ex situ* conservation, although ongoing monitoring every 5 years is recommended.

### Conservation status

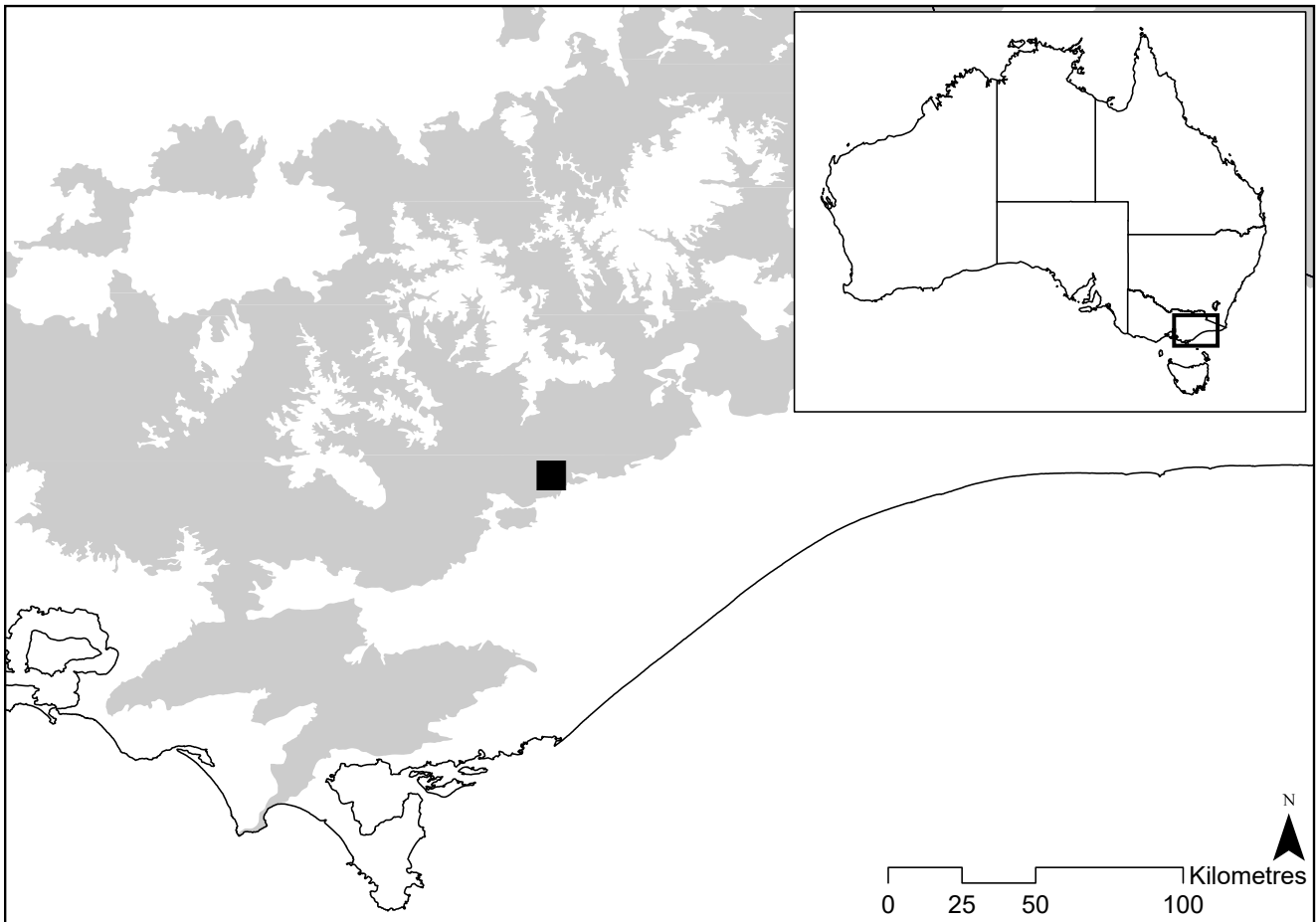
|                                                                      |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Not listed            |
| <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>                            | Threatened            |
| Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria               | Endangered            |
| IUCN Red List                                                        | Critically Endangered |

### Brief description

Mallee (multi-stemmed tree with a lignotuberous base) to 10 m with erect stems and semi-pendulous branchlets (Rule and Molyneux 2011). Bark is smooth, fading from white to grey and decorticating in short ribbons that accumulate at the base. Leaves are concolorous, blue-green and narrow, 8-12 mm wide, 6.0-11.0 cm long with numerous oil glands. Inflorescences emerge from the leaf axils, with 17-21 flowers. Buds are 6-10 mm long with a conical operculum. Fruit are approximately 4 mm long and 4 mm wide, with enclosed valves and black seeds. The species was split from *Eucalyptus elata* based on its mallee growth habit, smooth bark and persistent sub-glaucous intermediate leaves in the mature canopy (Rule and Molyneux 2011).

## Distribution

*Eucalyptus ornans* is known from one subpopulation north of Maffra on the Dooyeedang (Avon River) in the South Eastern Highlands bioregion of Victoria (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012). *Eucalyptus ornans* is not considered severely fragmented as it occurs in contiguous habitat along a river where seed dispersal can readily occur (IUCN 2019).



Current distribution (black square) of *Eucalyptus ornans* in the South Eastern Highlands bioregion (shaded grey) of Victoria (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012).

## Population estimate and trends

*Eucalyptus ornans* is currently known from a single population of 10 individuals. The species was known from approximately 70 mature individuals prior to a major flood in 2007, which uprooted 60 mature individuals, resulting in an 85% population reduction. Some lignotuber re-sprouting was anticipated following the event, but none was observed as of 2015 (B Molyneux pers.comm. 2020). The number of mature individuals has been stable since this event, which was caused by a rare coincidence of high snow melt and intense rainfall (B Molyneux pers.comm. 2020). The area has been relatively well-explored botanically, although it is possible more individuals exist.

## Habitat and ecology

*Eucalyptus ornans* grows in coarse gravels around a large lake-like outlet of the Dooyeedang (Avon River). Associated species include *E. bridgesiana*, *E. cephalocarpa*, *E. consideniana*, *E. cypellocarpa* and *E. globoidea* (AVH 2020). Flowering has been observed from spring through to late summer. In cultivation, the species is easy to propagate and highly fecund (B Molyneux pers.comm. 2020).

*Eucalyptus ornans* has some resilience to disturbance as it can presumably re-sprout from its lignotuber following fires, drought and floods, although this is yet to be observed. Although its river edge habitat is relatively protected from fire, flooding has caused significant disturbance to the population in the past. The Dooyeedang (Avon River) can flood severely if rainfall coincides with snow melt from the Mt Wellington massif upstream (Rule and Molyneux 2011). After this occurred in 2007, re-sprouting was not observed, possibly because many trees were completely uprooted. Generation length is unknown, but is presumed to be >100 years given its re-sprouting capacity.



## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                                        | Estimate                                                 | Reliability    |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual)<br>Trend | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.004 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Stable     | High<br>Medium |
| Area of occupancy (actual)<br>Trend    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.004 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing | High<br>Medium |
| No. of mature individuals<br>Trend     | 10<br>Stable                                             | High<br>Medium |
| No. of locations (key threat)<br>Trend | 1 (stochastic events)<br>Stable                          | High<br>Medium |
| No. of subpopulations<br>Trend         | 1<br>Stable                                              | High<br>Medium |
| Generation length                      | >100 years                                               | Medium         |
| Extreme fluctuations                   | No                                                       | Medium         |
| Severely fragmented                    | No                                                       | High           |
| Continuing decline                     | Not documented                                           | Medium         |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A2a            | CR: >80% reduction observed within 3 generations (85% from 2006-2007) where causes of decline may not be reversible; based on direct observation.                                   |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | NT: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; 1 location; but continuing decline not confirmed with certainty.                                                           |
| C2a(i,ii)      | NT: <250 mature individuals; <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation; 90-100% (100%) of individuals in one subpopulation; but continuing decline not confirmed with certainty. |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                         |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                        |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                      | Scope | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stochastic event<br>(severe flooding)<br><i>Future</i> | Whole | Very rapid | High          | The population comprised approximately 70 mature individuals until a major flood event in 2007 uprooted all but 10 individuals, with no re-sprouting observed as of 2015. Floods of this magnitude are unusual and require heavy snow melt to coincide with major rainfall (B Molyneux pers.comm. 2020), but can rapidly affect all individuals and therefore the species occurs at one location.                                              |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>                        | Whole | Unknown    | Unknown       | Climate change is projected to increase the intensity of heavy rainfall and flooding events in the region with high confidence (Grose <i>et al.</i> 2015). However climate change is also predicted to reduce snow depths, cause shorter snow seasons and decrease the area covered by snow (Grose <i>et al.</i> 2015). This may reduce water flows through the system and make the site more secure (N Walsh and B Molyneux pers.comm. 2019). |

## Current management

- There is no recovery plan for this species.
- The only known subpopulation of this species occurs within Avon-Mount Hedrick Natural Features Scenic Reserve (Rule and Molyneux 2011), although no active management of the subpopulation has occurred.
- No translocations have been undertaken for this species, although seed has been collected and two specimens planted in the garden of Bill Molyneux north-east of Melbourne. Translocations into the species' remote and rocky habitat is not currently considered a feasible management option.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor known subpopulation.
- Determine the capacity of the species to recover after disturbance (floods) via re-sprouting or sexual reproduction.
- Detect more subpopulations through targeted and opportunistic surveys.
- Establish *ex situ* subpopulations to spread extinction risk.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. The capacity of the species to produce viable seed that can successfully germinate within available habitat is of particular importance. | High     |
| Population surveys                         | Monitor known population to understand trends in relation to threats, particularly the ability of the species to resprout following flooding.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | High     |
|                                            | Undertake regular surveys to determine if recruitment is occurring within the population.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | High     |
|                                            | Undertake targeted surveys to confirm distribution of the species.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Medium   |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Determine suitable habitat for translocations that may be less vulnerable to stochastic events such as flooding.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Low      |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Establish and maintain <i>ex situ</i> seed collection representing maximum range of genetic diversity.                                                | High     |
|                                            | If feasible, propagate individuals and maintain in <i>ex situ</i> conservation collection. These individuals can be used for ongoing seed collection. | Medium   |



## Experts consulted

Neville Walsh, Kevin Rule and Bill Molyneux.

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## *Gentiana bredboensis* L.G.Adams [GENTIANACEAE] Bredbo gentian



*Gentiana bredboensis* flowering plant (top left), seeds (bottom left) and short herbfield seepage habitat with *Leptospermum* shrubs burnt in 2020 (right) (images: Laura Canackle).

### Overview

*Gentiana bredboensis* is known from a single population on private land that has been declining since the 1960s. Although the population has been fenced and is managed under a conservation agreement, the habitat continues to be threatened by invasive grasses, shrub competition and feral pigs. A wildfire burnt 80% of the site in 2020 and stimulated recruitment from soil-stored seed. The species will continue to require intensive site-based monitoring and management to ensure its persistence, along with germination trials with a view to translocation.

### Conservation status

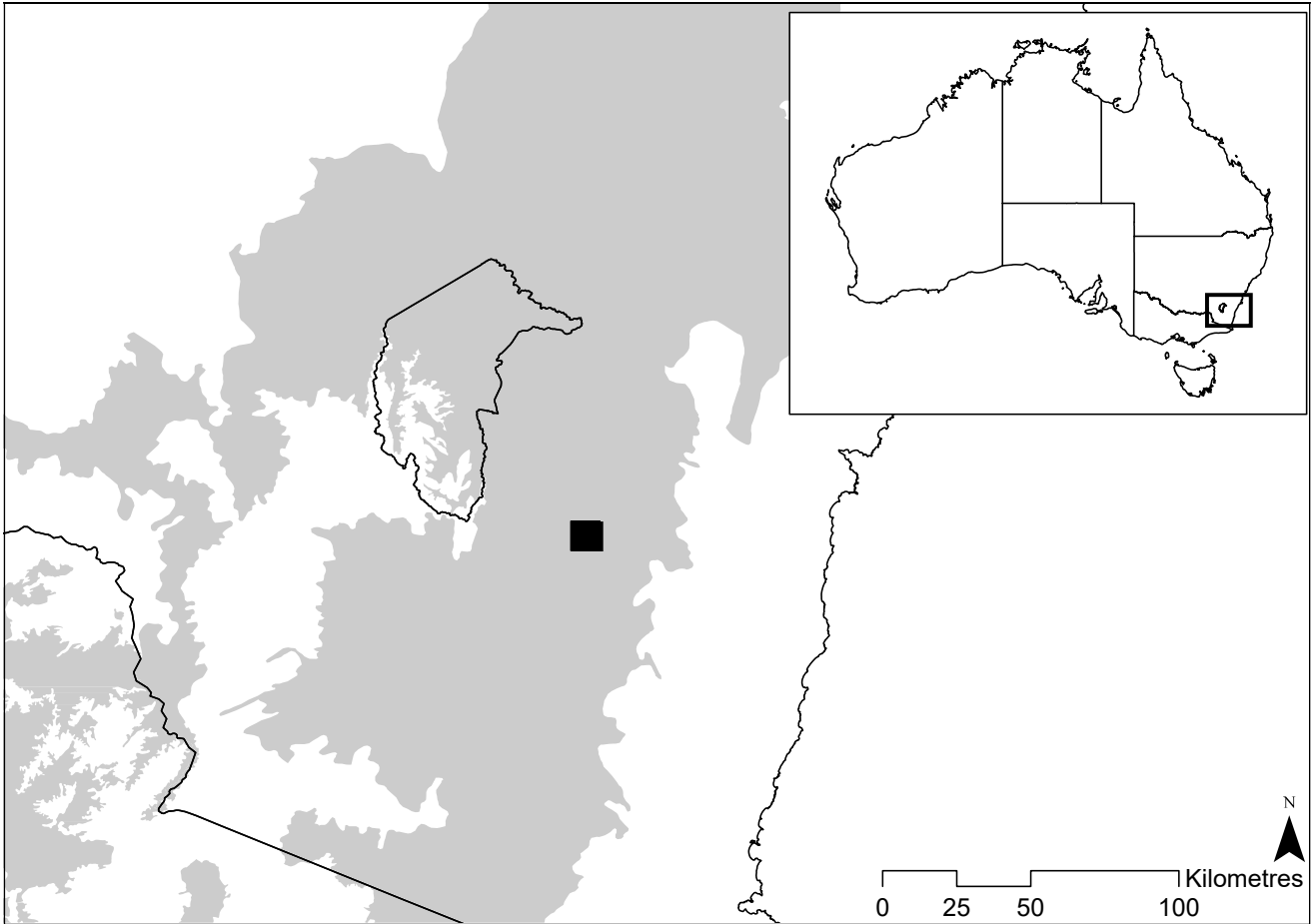
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Annual (possibly biennial) herb 2-9 cm with a slender, branched taproot (Adams and Williams 1988). Many-stemmed, erect and glabrous with 3-6 pairs of broad, sessile basal leaves to 20 mm forming a rosette, and 3-6 pairs of thicker, upper leaves 6-15 mm long. Flowers are terminal and solitary, with 1-6 per plant. Petals are fused with 4-5 lobes and very pale-blue. Fruit are oblong-ovoid, 5-6 mm long with numerous brown seeds 0.6 mm long (Adams and Williams 1988). *Gentiana bredboensis* is distinguished from the three other *Gentiana* spp. occurring in New South Wales by a combination of characters including its longer basal leaves, acute or acuminate leaf apex, corolla lobes that are white to pale-blue inside and have lacerate or 2-lobed folds, anthers 1 mm long, and a fruiting stipe 2.5 mm long (Harden 1992).

## Distribution

*Gentiana bredboensis* is known very restricted area near Jerangle to the east of Bredbo in the South Eastern Highlands bioregion of New South Wales (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012).



Current distribution (black square) of *Gentiana bredboensis* in the South Eastern Highlands bioregion (shaded grey) of New South Wales (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012).

## Population estimate and trends

*Gentiana bredboensis* is currently known from a single population with <300 mature individuals occurring over a 30 x 20 m area. When the species was first collected in 1967, the population contained several hundred plants in three small patches separated by about 200 m on adjacent properties (L Adams pers.comm, in Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2019). By 1999, two of these patches had disappeared, and in 2002 the population was estimated as 50-200 plants. There were 30-40 mature individuals in 2007, 200 mature individuals in 2010, and <50 since 2014 (TSSC 2019). Only 15 plants were recorded in 2019 (J Briggs pers.comm 2020). It is unclear whether these fluctuations represent variable survey effort or genuine change, although seasonal fluctuations are likely given the biology of other species in the genus (see Habitat and Ecology). In early 2020, a wildfire burnt about 80% of the site and while the 15 mature individuals were not burnt, several hundred seedlings germinated within the burnt area (L Canackle pers.comm. 2020). During a subsequent survey in November 2020, 280 flowering individuals were present (L Canackle pers.comm. 2020).

Despite surveys of suitable habitat in the region since 1967, no additional subpopulations have been located. Detectability is limited by the cryptic habit of the species, but although it could be present in other areas, potential habitat is limited and highly modified.

*Gentiana bredboensis* monitoring data, 2010-2018 (TSSC 2019; J Briggs, L Canackle pers.comm. 2020).

| Subpopulation (tenure)        | Number of mature individuals                                                                                         | Trend                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Jerangle (private property) | 1967: 'several hundred'<br>2002: 50-200<br>2007: 30-40<br>2008: 20<br>2010: 200<br>2014: 50<br>2019: 15<br>2020: 280 | Stable (with fluctuations) |

## Habitat and ecology

*Gentiana bredboensis* occurs above a dam along a tributary of the Bredbo River (Adams and Williams 1988).

The habitat is a wet seepage slope in granitic sandy soils amongst short herbfields interspersed with *Baeckea* spp. and *Leptospermum* spp. thickets. This naturally-restricted short herbfield habitat was probably maintained by native herbivores and perhaps fire prior to European colonisation (Adams and Williams 1988). Flowers only open in direct sunlight (Adams and Williams 1988).

Dispersal and germination of the species are poorly understood. Individuals are short-lived, either annual or biannual. Other species within the genus senesce within two months of seed-set and can disappear for multiple years before reappearing, indicating the seed is stored in the soil (Kodela *et al.* 1994; TSSC 2019). Due to this persistent seedbank, extreme fluctuations are not likely as the apparent fluctuations in number of mature individuals probably represent fluxes between different life stages (IUCN 2019). Germination trials thus far have been unsuccessful (J Briggs pers. comm. 2017), although the germination of several hundred seedlings post-fire in 2020 suggests that fire is an important factor. Generation time is estimated as <1 year.

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                    | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.19 km <sup>2</sup> )   | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.0004 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                      | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | <300                                        | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable (with fluctuations)                  | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (invasive grasses/competition)            | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                      | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 1                                           | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| Generation length             | <1 year                                     | High        |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                              | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                         | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                      | Medium      |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                     |
| B1+2ab(iii,iv) | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; and continuing decline observed in area/extent/quality of habitat and number of subpopulations. |
| C2a(i,ii)      | EN: <2500 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and 100% of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                |
| D1+2           | VU: <1000 mature individuals; AOO <20 km <sup>2</sup> ; 1 location; and plausible future threats that could drive taxon to CR or EX in a very short time.                                    |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                 |



## Threats

| Threat and timing                            | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                  | n/a   | n/a      | n/a           | Land clearing, predominantly for agriculture, has resulted in the decline and severe fragmentation of available habitat for the species. Sowing of introduced pasture grasses has also contributed to overall habitat degradation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Feral herbivores<br><i>Suspended</i>         | Whole | Rapid    | Medium        | Pig rooting damages individual plants and degrades the small amount of available habitat. The population was fenced in 2009 and no breaches have occurred, although this may happen in the future with severe consequences (J Briggs pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Grazing (domestic stock)<br><i>Suspended</i> | Whole | Slow     | Medium        | Trampling by cattle damages plants and degrades the small amount of available habitat for the species. The population was fenced from cattle in 2009 under a conservation partnership agreement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Invasive grasses<br><i>Ongoing</i>           | Whole | Rapid    | High          | Invasive pasture grasses are abundant in the area surrounding the population, and are a major threat particularly post-fire (J Briggs pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Competition/ lack of fire<br><i>Ongoing</i>  | Whole | Rapid    | High          | <i>Leptospermum</i> spp. shrub invasion due to lack of fire had increased competition and altered the habitat of the species, shading out individuals and limiting flowering and recruitment (J Briggs pers.comm. 2017). About 80% of the site burnt in wildfires in 2020, removing competition from <i>Leptospermum</i> spp. and stimulating recruitment from the soil seedbank (L Canackle pers.comm. 2020). However, the site is difficult to burn under normal circumstances due to high moisture levels, and dense <i>Leptospermum</i> spp. regeneration post-fire remains a long-term threat (J Briggs pers.comm. 2020). |
| Altered hydrology<br><i>Future</i>           | Whole | Rapid    | Medium        | The species depends on waterlogged areas, therefore changes to hydrology including stream flow, water extraction and long-term drying driven by climate change may render the habitat unsuitable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (TSSC 2019) and are being implemented under the Saving our Species strategy (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020).
- Bush Heritage Australia partnered with the former NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to fence the remaining population in 2009 (Bush Heritage Australia n.d; NSW DPIE 2020).
- BHA entered into a conservation agreement with the former landholder. This agreement, transferred to the current landholder, is now managed by the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.
- Seed from mature individuals was collected by NSW DPIE staff using seed bags in 2020, and >500 seeds have been sent to the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney for germination trials and low temperature storage (L Canackle pers. comm. 2020).
- Trial thinning to reduce the abundance of *Leptospermum* spp. at the site has been undertaken (NSW DPIE 2020).
- The distribution of this species overlaps with the 'White box-yellow box-Blakely's red gum grassy woodland and derived native grassland' and the 'Natural temperate grassland of the southern tablelands of the NSW and the Australian Capital Territory' EPBC Act-listed threatened ecological communities.
- Monitoring of the population following the 2020 wildfire is ongoing.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known population.
- Maintain conservation agreement over known habitat of the species. Protect additional suitable habitat for future translocations, if feasible.
- Undertake research to germinate seed and establish *ex situ* subpopulations.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild.

### Information required

| Theme                    | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys       | Undertake targeted surveys in other suitable habitat, including patches where the species formerly occurred, to locate additional subpopulations, particularly post-fire.                             | High     |
|                          | Monitor response of known subpopulations to threats and management actions.                                                                                                                           | High     |
| Life history and ecology | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species, particularly seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |

### Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                        | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Competition/lack of fire                   | Implement an appropriate fire regime for the species to reduce competition from <i>Leptospermum</i> spp. and increase the number of mature individuals. | High     |
|                                            | Manually remove competing native shrubs, particularly <i>Leptospermum</i> spp., and monitor effect on <i>G. bredboensis</i> .                           | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Establish an <i>ex situ</i> subpopulation representing the maximum range of genetic diversity possible for future translocation trials.                 | High     |
| Invasive weeds                             | Manage invasive weeds, particularly grasses, within the known population. Manage invasive weeds within other potential habitat of the species.          | High     |
| Habitat protection                         | Maintain fencing around known population to prevent trampling and rooting by cattle and pigs.                                                           | High     |



## Experts consulted

John Briggs and Laura Canackle.

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***Gossia gonoclada* (F.Mueller ex Bentham) N.Snow & Guymer**  
**[MYRTACEAE]**  
 Angle-stemmed myrtle



*Gossia gonoclada* flowers and fruits (images: Glenn Leiper) and leaves infected with myrtle rust, lower left (image: Tamara Taylor).

**Overview**

*Gossia gonoclada* (formerly *Austromyrtus gonoclada*) occurs entirely in the urban footprint of Greater Brisbane and was presumed extinct for over a century. It is known from small, highly modified and weedy remnants, and only one subpopulation contains more than two naturally occurring plants. Population declines are ongoing due to a variety of threats, including high susceptibility to the introduced pathogen myrtle rust *Austropuccinia psidii*. Recovery actions have focussed on habitat protection, translocation and identification of genotypes that are less susceptible to myrtle rust dieback.

**Conservation status**

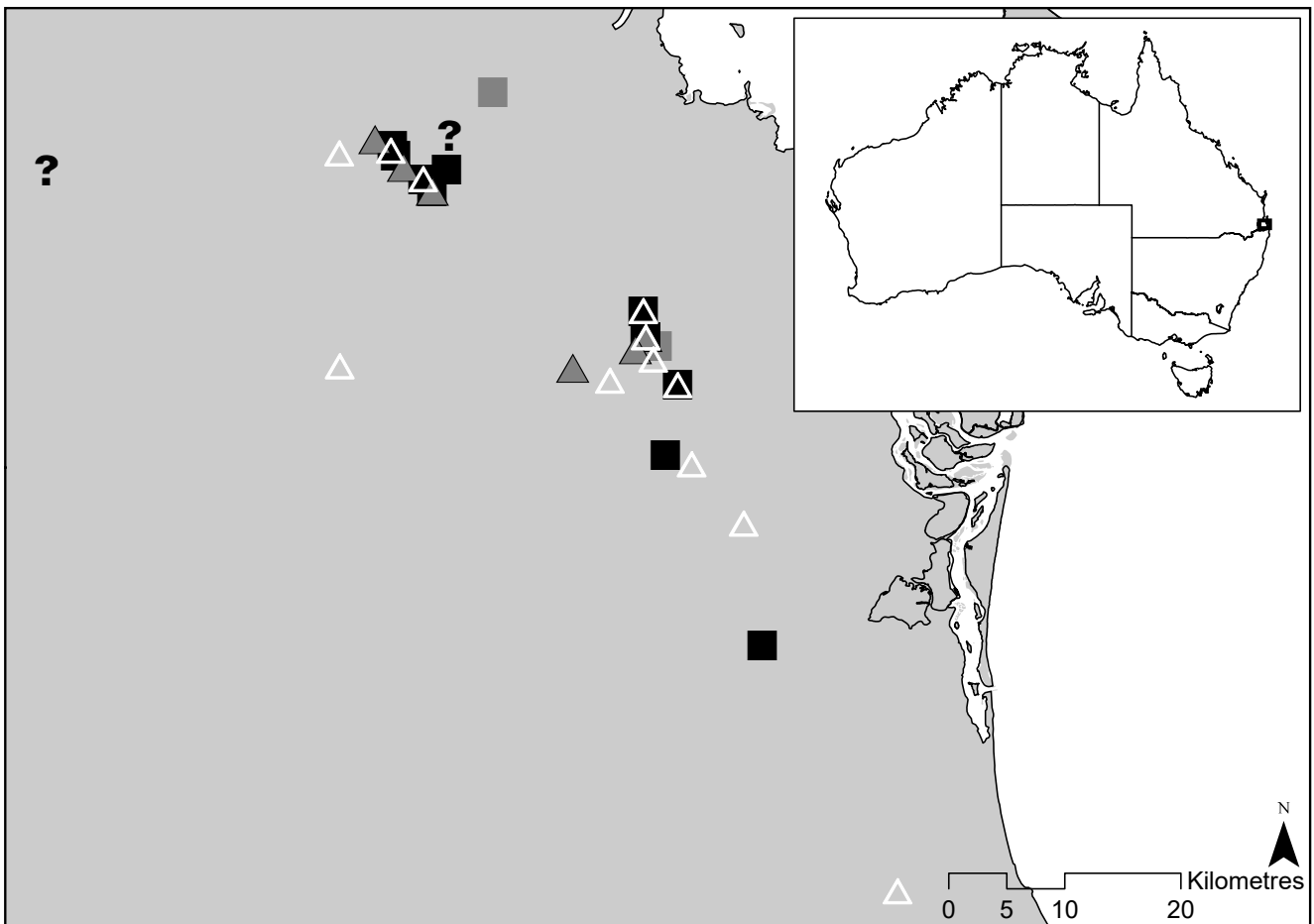
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>                                  | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

## Brief description

Tree to 18 m with smooth to flaky, pale-brown, red, orange or grey bark (Snow *et al.* 2003). Branchlets are red-brown and distinctly four-angled to laterally compressed with winged edges. Leaves 2.5-6.0 cm long and 1.0-3.7 cm wide, slightly glossy to matte and with abundant oil glands that are aromatic when crushed. White flowers occur singly in the leaf axils. Fruit is a glabrous blue-black berry 8-10 mm long and 7-8.5 mm wide containing 1-3 ivory coloured seeds. The winged branchlets, slightly retuse leaf apex and 5-numerous flowers distinguish it from other *Gossia* spp. in the region (Snow *et al.* 2003).

## Distribution

*Gossia gonoclada* is known from a restricted distribution along the lower reaches of the Brisbane and Logan Rivers and tributaries, in the South Eastern Queensland bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; *Austromyrtus gonoclada* Recovery Team 2001; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Queensland Herbarium 2020).



Current (black squares) and historic (grey squares) distribution of *Gossia gonoclada* in the South Eastern Queensland bioregion (shaded grey) of Queensland (AVH 2020; AGRT 2001; DAWE 2012; QH 2020). Several augmentation and introduction translocations have been undertaken, including some with extant plants that have not yet produced viable offspring (hollow triangles), and with no surviving plants (grey triangles). The status of two subpopulations is unknown (?).

## Population estimate and trends

The first collections of *G. gonoclada* were made between 1858 and 1875 from several locations along the Brisbane River, including New Farm and Moggill (AVH 2020; QH 2020). It was thought to be extinct for >100 years due to broad-scale habitat loss for urban development. A small subpopulation was located in 1986 and with further searching several additional trees were found. In 2001, the species was known from 73 individuals at nine sites (AGRT 2001). Despite extensive survey, the species has not been relocated at Lone Pine or Long Pocket. One plant was found at Tennyson in 2007, two at Bahrs Scrub in 2016, one in Rocklea and several throughout the Gold Coast in 2020. There is potential for further individuals and small subpopulations to be found given the often-inaccessible habitat.

*Gossia gonoclada* is currently known from 32 (possibly 34) naturally-occurring individuals in 11 (possibly 13) subpopulations. This estimate is lower than originally thought, as individuals can have many stems, particularly where roots are exposed by erosion. The number of 'mature individuals' (IUCN 2019) may be lower again due to reproductive suppression by myrtle rust. *Gossia gonoclada* reproduces sexually, and myrtle rust has caused a reduction in the abundance and density of parent plants and thus outcrossing probability, reduced flowering rates due to shoot death and flower bud infection, and reduced seed-set due to plant stress and direct infection of fruits (B Makinson pers.comm. 2020).

The wild population has been augmented with approximately 400 planted individuals, at five existing wild subpopulations and at 22 new sites. Some of the plants propagated from cuttings are producing fruit, but only one tree grown from seed has flowered, at Rainbow Forest in 2017 (18 years after planting; R Laundon pers.comm. 2020). Although some 130 translocated plants are known to be surviving on secure tenure, no translocated plants have produced seedlings and therefore are excluded in conservation assessment parameters.

Some monitoring has occurred since 2001 and myrtle rust impacts were monitored intensively from 2013-2017 (Taylor *et al.* 2017a,b). The survival rate of 199 translocated plants in the Logan City Council LGA is 41%, while individuals planted in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Redlands and Ipswich City Council have a survival rate of about 30% (L Simmons pers.comm. 2019). Translocated plants that were recovering from myrtle rust in the latest surveys were genetically related to five wild occurring plants that appear to be less susceptible to the disease (L Simmons pers.comm. 2019).

*Gossia gonoclada* monitoring data, 2001-2020 (AGRT 2001; Taylor *et al.* 2017a,b; Silcock *et al.* 2019; T Taylor, L Veage, P McGruther, L Simmons, R Laundon pers.comm. 2020).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                                        | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                        | Trend      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1a Murrays Road, Tanah Merah (private property)               | 2001: 49<br>2016: 16                                                            | Decreasing |
| 1b Murrays Environmental Reserve, Tanah Merah (State reserve) | 1998: 8<br>2001: 8 (27T)<br>2017: 8 (20T)<br>2020: 0 (14T)                      | Decreasing |
| 1c Murrays Road Reserve, Tanah Merah (council land)           | 2001: 1 (4T)<br>2017: 1(0T)<br>2020: 1 (0T)                                     | Decreasing |
| 2 Usher Park, Daisy Hill (council land)                       | 2001: 3 (27T)<br>2016: 2 (19T)<br>2020: 2 (18T)                                 | Stable     |
| 3 Alexander Clark Park, Loganholme (State land)               | 2001: 2 (55T)<br>2016: 2 (29T)<br>2020: 2 (25T)                                 | Stable (?) |
| 4 Nosworthy Park, Corinda (council land)                      | 2001: 1 (18T)<br>2017: 1 (8T)                                                   | Decreasing |
| 5 Cliveden Avenue, Corinda (council land)                     | 2001: 3 (24T)<br>2016: 2 (0T)                                                   | Decreasing |
| 6 Aminga Street, Fig Tree Pocket (council land)               | 2001: 1<br>2016: 1<br>2020: 1                                                   | Stable     |
| 7 Manaton Park, Fig Tree Pocket (council land)                | 2001: 1<br>2016: 1<br>2020: 1                                                   | Stable     |
| 8 Lone Pine, Fig Tree Pocket (unknown)                        | 2001: 1<br>2016: ? (location of tree unknown)                                   | Unknown    |
| 9 CSIRO Long Pocket (State land)                              | 1999: 1 ('adventive')<br>2016: ? (location of tree unknown, possibly destroyed) | Unknown    |
| 10 Belivah, Beenleigh (private property)                      | 2016: 1 (comprising 2 suckers)<br>2020: 1 (comprising 2 suckers)                | Stable     |
| 11 Brisbane Golf Club, Tennyson (private property)            | 2007: 1 (planted or original unknown)<br>2016: 1                                | Unknown    |

|                                                            |                                                 |                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 12 Wongawallan Creek (council reserve, private property)   | 2020: 4 plants found in remnant                 | Unknown                |
| 13 (T) Fred Johnson Park, Pimpama (council land)           | 2003: 15T<br>2016: 6T                           | Decreasing             |
| 14 (T) Hinterland Regional Park, Mudgeeraba (council land) | 2003: 15T<br>2016: 6T                           | Decreasing             |
| 15 (T) Opossum Creek, Springfield (council land)           | 2020: >10T                                      | Unknown                |
| 16 (T) Leslie Parade Park, Slacks Creek (council land)     | 2003: 11T<br>2017: 7T<br>2020: 6T               | Decreasing             |
| 17 (T) Logan City Golf Course, Meadowbrook (private land)  | 2003: 49T<br>2017: 24T<br>2020: 23T             | Decreasing             |
| 18 (T) Marsden Parks Depot, Marsden (council land)         | 2003: 16T<br>2017: 0T                           | No extant plants       |
| 19 (T) Rafting Ground Reserve, Brookfield (council land)   | 2003: 21T<br>2017: 7T<br>2020: 4T               | Decreasing             |
| 20 (T) Rainbow Forest, Indooroopilly (council land)        | 1999: 9T<br>2001: 14T*<br>2003: 14T<br>2020: 9T | Unknown                |
| 21 (T) Riverdale Park, Meadowbrook (council land)          | 2003: 20T<br>2017: 10T<br>2020: 0T              | No extant plants       |
| 22 (T) Sherwood Arboretum (council land)                   | 2003: 10T<br>2020: 0T                           | No extant plants       |
| 23 (T) Sutling Street Park, Chapel Hill (council land)     | 2003: 5T<br>2020: 0T                            | No extant plants       |
| 24 (T) Tansey Park, Tanah Merah (council land)             | 2003: 7T<br>2020: 5T                            | Decreasing             |
| 25 (T) Tygym Lagoon, Waterford West                        | 2003: 9T<br>2020: 8T                            | Unknown                |
| 26 (T) Alexander Watt Park, Bannockburn                    | 2020: 17T                                       | Only planted 2019-2020 |

Translocated individuals/subpopulation (T). \*Including five additional planted individuals. Note: *Gossia gonoclada* has been widely planted in private gardens, but only translocated subpopulations in reserved land with >4 plants are included. All naturally occurring subpopulations are included regardless of tenure.

## Habitat and ecology

*Gossia gonoclada* occurs in dry rainforest and riverine rainforest scrubs in well-drained clay soils derived from metamorphosed sediments or Cainozoic deposits (AGRT 2001). The species grows on slopes, alluvial terraces and riverbanks at 5-50 m above sea level along permanent watercourses (Brisbane and Logan Rivers and tributaries) in areas prone to tidal inundation and flooding (AGRT 2001). Associated species include *Syzygium francisii*, *S. smithii*, *Lophostemon confertus*, *Acacia disparrima*, *Cryptocarya microneura*, *Elaeocarpus obovatus*, *Jagera pseudorhus*, *Argyrodendron trifoliolatum*, *Pouteria cotinifolia*, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*, *Toechima tenax*, *Melaleuca bracteata*, *Acronychia pauciflora*, *Alyxia ruscifolia* and *Gossia bidwillii* (AGRT 2001).



Flowering occurs from October to December and fruiting from January to April (AVH 2020). As with other Myrtaceae species, the unspecialised flowers are thought to be pollinated by a variety of insects including bees and thrips (AGRT 2001). The species regenerates vegetatively from suckers and seed production is variable but generally low (AGRT 2001). Seeds are encased by a soft fruit that are probably dispersed by animals such as birds and bats. Silvereyes (*Zosterops lateralis*) and green figbirds (*Sphecotheres viridis*) are known to eat the fruit (AGRT 2001). Seeds are only viable for a short period and germination occurs 8-60 days after sowing with a variable success rate of 0-95% (AGRT 2001). *Gossia gonoclada* is a very long-lived species and reaches reproductive maturity after at least 20 years (AGRT 2001).

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                                        | Estimate                                              | Reliability    |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Extent of occurrence<br>Trend          | 193 km <sup>2</sup><br>Decreasing                     | Medium<br>High |
| Area of occupancy (actual)<br>Trend    | 48 km <sup>2</sup> (1 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing | Medium<br>High |
| No. of mature individuals<br>Trend     | <50 (32-34 known)<br>Decreasing                       | Medium<br>High |
| No. of locations (key threat)<br>Trend | 1 (introduced pathogens)<br>Decreasing                | Medium<br>High |
| No. of subpopulations<br>Trend         | 11 (possibly 13)<br>Decreasing                        | Medium<br>High |
| Generation length                      | >40 years                                             | Low            |
| Extreme fluctuations                   | No                                                    | High           |
| Severely fragmented                    | Yes                                                   | High           |
| Continuing decline                     | Observed and projected                                | High           |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                            |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | EN: EOO <5000km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <500km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; and continuing decline in EOO, AOO, area/extent/habitat quality, number of locations/subpopulations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C1+2a(i)       | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline of >25% in 1 generation; and <50 individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                                 |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                        |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                        | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>              | n/a      | n/a        | n/a           | Habitat for the species has been decimated for urban development, and it is now confined to small, severely fragmented remnants. Three subpopulations occur on private land that are protected under local government and State legislation (AGRT 2001).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Suspended</i> | Whole    | Very rapid | High          | The species is highly susceptible to myrtle rust, limiting sexual reproduction and causing tree mortality (Pegg <i>et al.</i> 2014; Makinson 2018). In 2016, 75% of the population was severely impacted (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2016), with disease incidence and severity data indicating mortality in 25% of the population and long-term impacts on the health of remaining trees (T Taylor pers.comm. 2017). Susceptibility varies within subpopulations, as some individuals are severely impacted while others display minor symptoms. However, >90% of flower buds on fertile trees were infected in the most recent surveys (Taylor <i>et al.</i> 2017a,b). |
| Genetic diversity<br><i>Suspended</i>    | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | A large proportion of the original population has been lost to land clearing and this decline will be ongoing with myrtle rust impacts. Myrtle rust limits sexual reproduction as it infects buds, flowers and fruit, while killing new shoots (Pegg <i>et al.</i> 2014). Existing levels of sexual reproduction are low and the species has low genetic fitness with very little outcrossing (Taylor <i>et al.</i> 2017a,b).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Lack of recruitment<br><i>Ongoing</i>    | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | Existing levels of recruitment are low, with myrtle rust further limiting seed-set and successful establishment of seedlings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>         | Majority | Slow       | Medium        | Invasive weeds are present in the habitat and affect the survival, growth and reproduction of the species (TSSC 2016).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Human activities<br><i>Ongoing</i>       | Minority | Rapid      | Medium        | Slashing, arson, rubbish dumping and recreational walking tracks have impacted plants at some subpopulations (TSSC 2016). Most sites are now managed for conservation (TSSC 2016), and plants at some are quite inaccessible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>          | Whole    | Rapid      | Medium        | The species occurs at low altitudes along river systems prone to inundation. Peak tides are likely to increase with sea level rise associated with climate change and are predicted to reduce the available habitat for the species (Dowdy <i>et al.</i> 2015).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Current management

- A National Action Plan (Makinson *et al.* 2020) has been developed through extensive consultation and provides a national expert consensus for the conservation of species affected by myrtle rust. *Gossia gonoclada* is listed as a 'very high' priority species in the NAP (Makinson *et al.* 2020).
- Recovery actions have been identified and were implemented from 2001-2005, including fencing, realignment of walking paths and weed control (AGRT 2001).
- Logan City Council (2019) has developed a Recovery Plan (2019-2029) and is actively protecting and managing habitat for the species, including weeding and active fungicide application.
- Bushcare groups around Brisbane also undertake work at various subpopulations, and are supported by the Brisbane City Council. Oxley Creek Catchment group received a grant to support conservation work in 2020.
- Wild subpopulations were augmented with 113 propagated individuals by 2001. Seeds (378) and cuttings have been propagated from 17 trees. Five subpopulations have been established at new locations.
- Research has been undertaken into genetic diversity and temporal leaf phenology in relation to myrtle rust susceptibility (Taylor *et al.* 2017a,b).

## Conservation objectives

- Establish awareness, funding and leadership for a long-term and coordinated response to the impact of myrtle rust on *G. gonoclada*.
- Identify feasible options for maintaining wild subpopulations of *G. gonoclada*.
- Establish and maintain a viable *ex situ* collection of *G. gonoclada* as an ongoing conservation resource.
- Better understand the ecology of myrtle rust as it relates to *G. gonoclada* and the ecosystems within which it occurs.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Continue to undertake surveys in historic and potential habitat in an attempt to locate additional individuals.                                                                                                              | High     |
|                                            | Monitor response of subpopulations to threats and recovery actions according to recommendations in the NAP.                                                                                                                  | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Undertake research to determine the most effective methods of <i>ex situ</i> germplasm capture and storage (seed, tissue culture, vegetative).                                                                               | High     |
|                                            | Collate a national inventory of cultivated specimens (botanic gardens, private collections) that can be protected by fungicide, diversified by further sampling and used for seed production.                                | High     |
|                                            | Use <i>ex situ</i> conservation collection to undertake research (within the NAP framework where possible), including trials for more rust-tolerant genotypes that may be used as a basis for reintroduction translocations. | High     |
| Life history and ecology                   | Conduct genetic analyses to ascertain more precise estimate of genetically distinct individuals.                                                                                                                             | High     |
|                                            | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species to guide conservation actions.                                                                                                           | Medium   |
|                                            | Investigate indirect impacts of myrtle rust on habitat of <i>G. gonoclada</i> , including ecological interactions with other threatening processes such as fire, drought, invasive weeds and climate change..                | Medium   |
| Introduced pathogens                       | Undertake research into biocontrol methods for myrtle rust.                                                                                                                                                                  | Medium   |
|                                            | Undertake research to identify possible management actions to maintain the wild subpopulations of <i>G. gonoclada</i> , such as selective fungicide application.                                                             | Medium   |
| Climate change                             | Identify possible impacts of sea level rise on existing and available habitat of the species.                                                                                                                                | Medium   |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                       | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Priority |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                          | Secure all known habitat within appropriate conservation agreements and/or exclusion fencing.                                                                                                                                                                                      | High     |
| Population surveys                          | Standardise population monitoring data methods and coordinate data storage at a national scale.                                                                                                                                                                                    | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/ translocations | Maintain and expand secure (threat-managed) and genetically representative <i>ex situ</i> collections for seed collection and to support ongoing research efforts, including identification of genotypes less-susceptible to myrtle rust for future reintroduction translocations. | High     |
|                                             | Propagate genotypes that are less susceptible to myrtle rust to augment wild subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                                       | High     |
| Extension and awareness                     | Seek Indigenous stakeholder input and participation in conservation actions.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | High     |
|                                             | Raise awareness of the impact of myrtle rust on the species with local landholders and other stakeholders to monitor and protect the species.                                                                                                                                      | High     |
| Invasive weeds                              | Conduct weed control in known subpopulations (especially at Logan City Golf Course) to minimise impacts of competition.                                                                                                                                                            | Medium   |
| Life history, ecology and research          | Assemble botanical and ecological knowledge of the species (including seedling photographs to guide field impact surveys) in a repository to expedite research, conservation planning and rapid surveys.                                                                           | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Tamara Taylor, Laura Simmons, Lee-Anne Veage, Roslyn Laundon, Prue McGruther, Bob Makinson, Lui Weber and Julian Radford-Smith.

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***Gossia hillii* (Benth.) N.Snow & Guymer [MYRTACEAE]**  
 Scaly myrtle, Hill's ironwood, Hill's lignum, mangoor, kalaara



Healthy *Gossia hillii* flowers and foliage (top left), fruit at various stages of maturity (right; images: Glenn Leiper), and foliage infected by myrtle rust *Austropuccinia psidii* (bottom left; image: Jarrah Wills).

**Overview**

Once a widespread and common understorey plant in rainforests in eastern Australia, *Gossia hillii* has undergone a rapid decline since the invasion of myrtle rust in 2010. The species is extremely susceptible to infection, which culminates in the death of mature trees and loss of reproductive capacity as flowers and fruit become infected and die. *Gossia hillii* urgently requires field survey assessments across its range and germplasm collection for *ex situ* conservation to facilitate reintroductions if this becomes viable in the future.

**Conservation status**

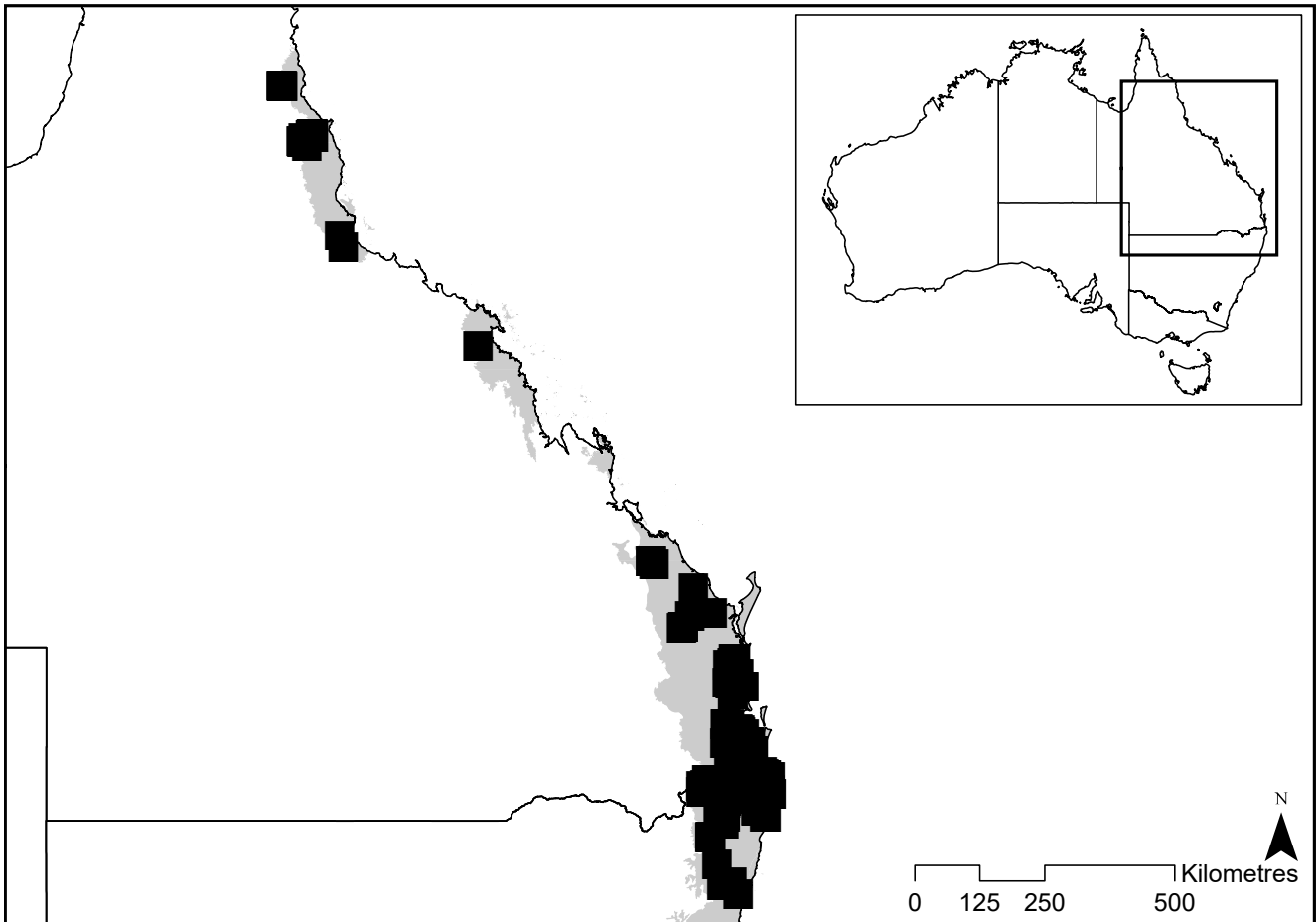
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Not listed                         |
| <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (Qld)                            | Not listed                         |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (NSW)                      | Not listed                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

**Brief description**

Shrub or tree to 12 m with grey rough, flaky, fissured bark (Snow *et al.* 2003). Branchlets rounded, light brown, without wings and smooth to flaky with some hairs. Leaves slightly discoloured, glossy above and matte below. Petioles 1-7 mm long with a deep channel. Lamina narrowly elliptic to elliptic with a cuneate base and acute apex with rounded tip; 2.0-6.2 cm long and 1.2-3.3 cm wide. Oil glands not visible from above, prominent below, and intramarginal vein obscure. Inflorescence a single cluster of 1-3 white flowers borne from the leaf axils or end of branchlets. Fruit a dark purple to black berry 7-11 mm wide, with 1-3 smooth, light-brown seeds with a hard coat (Snow *et al.* 2003).

## Distribution

*Gossia hillii* is known from Garlambirla (Coffs Harbour) in the NSW North Coast bioregion to Gympie in the South Eastern Queensland bioregion. The species also has several disjunct occurrences throughout northern coastal Queensland including Bundaberg, Gladstone, Mackay, Townsville and Gimuy (Cairns), within the Central Mackay Coast and Wet Tropics bioregions (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Fensham *et al.* 2020; New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020; Queensland Herbarium 2020). *Gossia hillii* is severely fragmented as all occurrences comprise a small number of trees, while establishment and survival after any recolonisation event is hindered by myrtle rust (IUCN 2019).



Current distribution (black squares) of *Gossia hillii* in the NSW North Coast, South Eastern Queensland, Central Mackay Coast and Wet Tropics bioregions (shaded grey) of eastern Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; Fensham *et al.* 2020; NSW DPIE 2020; QH 2020). As myrtle rust occurs throughout the range of the species (Makinson 2018), the species is now absent or very unhealthy at many of these sites.

## Population estimate and trends

*Gossia hillii* was once a common understorey to midstorey species of well-developed rainforest (Pegg *et al.* 2017). Herbarium records (AVH 2020) and reports from field botanists indicate the species was locally common where it occurred (Makinson 2018). Since the introduction of myrtle rust, a marked decline has occurred, with tree mortality doubling to 38% in one permanent monitoring plot over one year (Pegg *et al.* 2017). *Gossia hillii* is declining towards near-term extinction at many sites and is now rare where it was formerly common (Makinson 2018). Reproduction and regeneration have also become extremely limited, with few observations of mature fruit since 2010 (Fensham *et al.* 2020; Makinson 2018), and although reports are few, seedlings that do emerge are typically killed by myrtle rust (J Halford pers.comm., in Makinson 2018). Individuals previously suffering severe dieback at Nulgul (Ormeau) were recently recorded with uninfected buds and flowers (G Leiper pers.comm. 2020).

The number of 'mature individuals' (IUCN 2019) is inferred to be <250 (and <50 for each subpopulation) due to reproductive suppression by myrtle rust. *Gossia hillii* reproduces sexually, and myrtle rust has caused a reduction in the abundance and density of parent plants and thus outcrossing probability, reduced flowering rates due to shoot death and flower bud infection, and reduced seed set due to plant stress and direct infection of fruits (B Makinson pers.comm. 2020).

## Habitat and ecology

*Gossia hillii* occurs in a variety of soils as an understorey or midstorey tree amongst well-developed microphyll or notophyll vineforest between 20-1100 m altitude (Snow *et al.* 2003; Pegg *et al.* 2017). *Gossia hillii* can also occur on forest edges, where it behaves as a pioneer species in regenerating rainforest (Makinson 2018).

Flowers have been observed from October to December, with fruit forming from November to April (Snow *et al.* 2003). Like other rainforest Myrtaceae, pollination is presumably facilitated by insects including bees, while the fleshy fruits are dispersed by birds (Williams and Adam 2012). Under ideal conditions, *G. hillii* could become reproductively mature within 4-5 years (P Forster pers.comm. 2020). As the species can re-sprout basally and from epicormic buds, it can presumably live indefinitely. *Gossia hillii* is a confirmed host to the introduced pathogen myrtle rust (Pegg *et al.* 2014), which occurs throughout its distribution (Makinson 2018).

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                          | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 265 604 km <sup>2</sup> (unknown) | Low         |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                        | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 592 km <sup>2</sup> (unknown)     | Low         |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                        | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | <250                              | Low         |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                        | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (introduced pathogens)          | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                        | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | Unknown                           | Low         |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                        | High        |
| Generation length             | >40 years                         | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | No                                | High        |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                               | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and estimated            | High        |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A4ce           | CR: >80% reduction observed (2009-2020) and estimated (+100 years); based on decline in AOO, EOO, habitat quality; and effects of introduced pathogens.                                                                              |
| B2ab(i-v)      | AOO <2000 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; continuing decline observed and estimated in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                            |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                         |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                       | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past and ongoing</i> | Minority | Rapid      | Low           | Land clearing (for example the decimation of the Big Scrub; Parkes <i>et al.</i> 2012) has resulted in the decline and fragmentation of <i>G. hillii</i> habitat. Land conversion is ongoing (Evans 2016), although many trees are now protected in national park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Ongoing</i>  | Whole    | Very rapid | High          | Myrtle rust causes dieback of young shoots and reproductive organs in <i>G. hillii</i> (Pegg <i>et al.</i> 2014; 2017), and occurs throughout the species' distribution (Makinson 2018). At one site, tree mortality doubled from 18% in 2016 to 38% in 2017, with surviving plants having <10% crown cover (Pegg <i>et al.</i> 2017). Subpopulations of <i>G. hillii</i> are rapidly declining (J Radford-Smith pers.comm. 2020), seedlings are rare where they were once common, and epicormic growth is rapidly infected and killed (Makinson 2018).          |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>         | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | Myrtle rust infects foliage of other rainforest Myrtaceae recovering from drought-stress (J Radford-Smith, L Weber pers.comm. 2020) and fire (Fernandez Winzer <i>et al.</i> 2020). Myrtle rust incidence and infection severity is influenced by climatic conditions including temperature, rainfall and humidity (Makinson 2018). More frequent droughts, variable rainfall, extreme temperatures and fire weather are predicted under climate change (Dowdy <i>et al.</i> 2015; McInnes <i>et al.</i> 2015), but the interaction with myrtle rust is unknown. |

## Current management

- A National Action Plan (Makinson *et al.* 2020) has been developed through extensive consultation and provides a national expert consensus for the conservation of species affected by myrtle rust. *Gossia hillii* is listed as a 'very high' priority species in the NAP (Makinson *et al.* 2020).
- The species' natural distribution coincides with many protected areas that are managed for conservation.
- Limited targeted surveys have been undertaken in Queensland and NSW to determine population trends in response to myrtle rust infection (Pegg *et al.* 2017; Fensham *et al.* 2020).
- A small number of individuals have been established at the Australian Botanic Garden Mt Annan from seed and cuttings.
- Some current research on related species and on the genomics of the myrtle rust pathogen are expected to be informative of the mechanism of resistance and susceptibility in this species (B Makinson pers.comm. 2020).

## Conservation objectives

- Establish awareness, funding and leadership for a long-term and coordinated response to the impact of myrtle rust on *G. hillii*.
- Identify feasible options for maintaining wild subpopulations of *G. hillii*.
- Establish and maintain a viable *ex situ* collection of *G. hillii* as an ongoing conservation resource.
- Better understand the ecology of myrtle rust as it relates to *G. hillii* and the ecosystems within which it occurs.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Undertake field surveys as recommend by the NAP; document myrtle rust incidence, impact, resistance among plants, demographic trends and related ecological data.                                                            | High     |
|                                            | Continue monitoring in permanent plots to document time-series trends.                                                                                                                                                       | High     |
|                                            | Monitor subpopulations in response to threat abatement actions.                                                                                                                                                              | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Undertake research to determine the most effective methods of <i>ex situ</i> germplasm capture and storage (seed, tissue culture, vegetative).                                                                               | High     |
|                                            | Collate a national inventory of cultivated specimens (botanic gardens, private collections) that can be protected by fungicide, diversified by further sampling and used for seed production.                                | High     |
|                                            | Use <i>ex situ</i> conservation collection to undertake research (within the NAP framework where possible), including trials for more rust-tolerant genotypes that may be used as a basis for reintroduction translocations. | High     |
| Introduced pathogens                       | Undertake research into biocontrol methods for myrtle rust.                                                                                                                                                                  | High     |
|                                            | Undertake research to identify possible management actions to maintain the wild population of <i>G. hillii</i> , such as selective fungicide application.                                                                    | High     |
| Life history, ecology and research         | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species to guide conservation actions.                                                                                                           | Medium   |
|                                            | Continue to document indirect impacts of myrtle rust on habitat of <i>G. hillii</i> , including ecological interactions with other threatening processes such as fire, drought, invasive weeds and climate change.           | Medium   |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Standardise population monitoring data methods and coordinate data storage at a national scale.                                                                                                                                                                                    | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Urgently secure germplasm for <i>ex situ</i> conservation efforts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | High     |
|                                            | Maintain and expand secure (threat-managed) and genetically representative <i>ex situ</i> collections for seed collection and to support ongoing research efforts, including identification of genotypes less-susceptible to myrtle rust for future reintroduction translocations. | High     |
| Extension and awareness                    | Seek Indigenous stakeholder input and participation in conservation actions.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | High     |
|                                            | Raise awareness of the impact of myrtle rust on the species with local landholders and other stakeholders to monitor and protect the species.                                                                                                                                      | High     |
| Life history, ecology and research         | Assemble fragmented botanical and ecological knowledge of the species (including seedling photographs to guide field impact surveys) in a repository to expedite research, conservation planning and rapid surveys.                                                                | Medium   |



## Experts consulted

Bob Makinson, Geoff Pegg, Lui Weber, Julian Radford-Smith and Rod Fensham.

## References

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*Grevillea caleyi* R. Br. [PROTEACEAE]  
 Caley's grevillea, Terrey Hills grevillea



*Grevillea caleyi* inflorescence (top); Mark Ooi counting seeds on a mature *G. caleyi* plant (bottom left); Tony Auld examining a plant recently killed by fire (bottom right; images: Tony Auld).

**Overview**

*Grevillea caleyi* occurs in a restricted area within the heavily urbanised region of Sydney. It is known from <1000 individuals in three subpopulations. The population experiences extreme fluctuations due to fire but is declining due to ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation, predation of seed and grazing of seedlings, and lack of appropriate fire regimes that are difficult to implement in small urban remnants. The habitat requirements of the species are well-understood and translocation remains a viable option for conservation, although there is limited suitable habitat remaining.

**Conservation status**

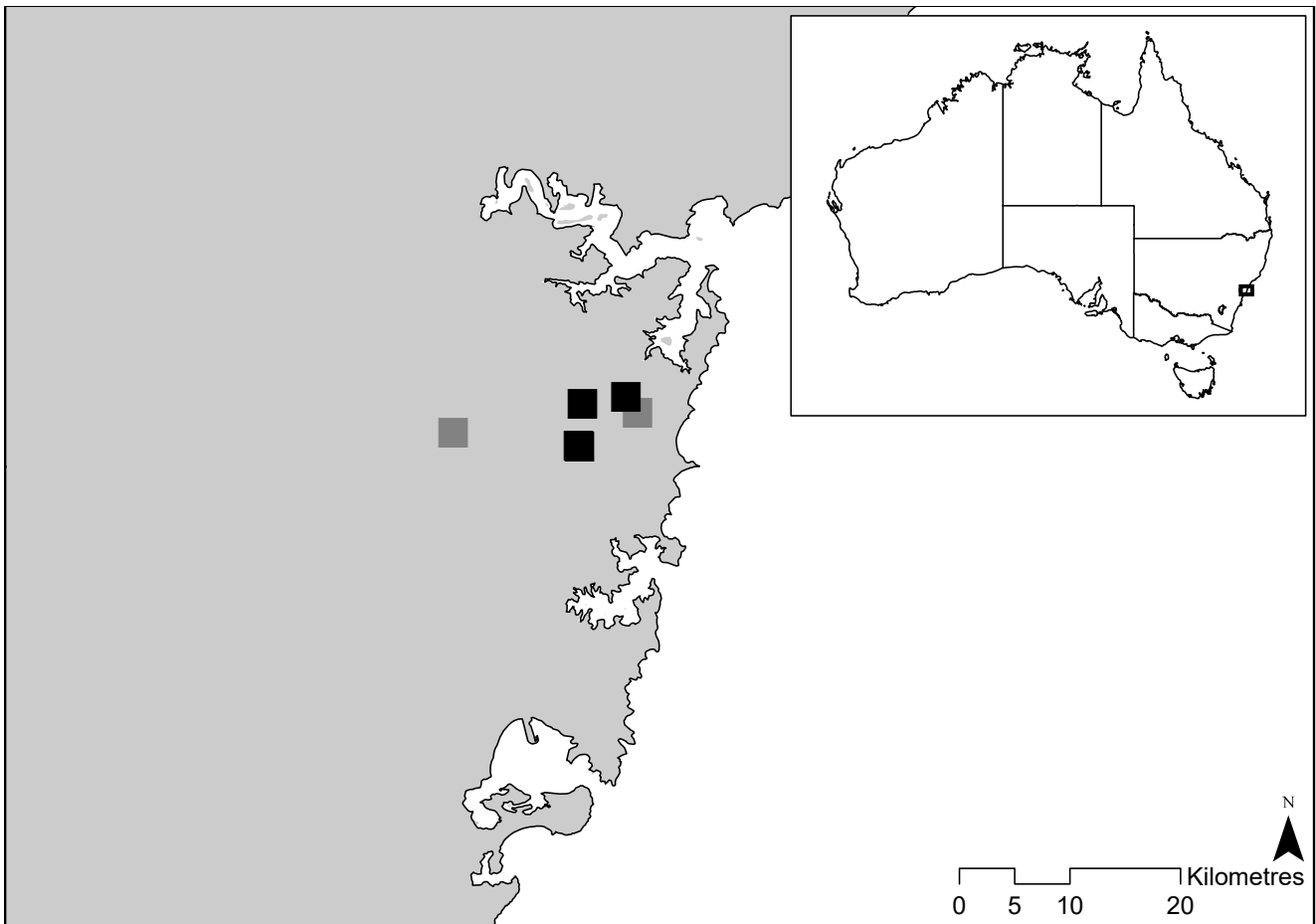
|                                                                      |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered |
| IUCN Red List                                                        | Critically Endangered |

## Brief description

Spreading shrub to 4 m tall with hairy branches, leaves, inflorescences and petioles (Department of Environment and Conservation 2004). Leaves are green with deeply-divided margins to 15 cm and rusty red-pink when young. The inflorescence forms a terminal raceme to 8 cm and is crimson with pale green stigma tips (DEC 2004). Fruit are large and hairy with purple-brown stripes and a persistent style. Seeds are 1.5-2 cm long and weigh 318-351 mg (Auld and Denham 1999). *Grevillea caleyi* is distinct and unlikely to be confused with other species in the area.

## Distribution

*Grevillea caleyi* is known from three broad areas in the northern suburbs of Sydney: Terrey Hills/ Duffys Forest, Belrose and Ingleside (New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020a) within the Sydney Basin bioregion (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012). Based on herbarium records, it is possible *G. caleyi* formerly occurred to the west and north-east of its current distribution, from Turramurra and Collaroy (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020).



Current (black squares) and historic (grey squares) distribution of *Grevillea caleyi* in the Sydney Basin bioregion (shaded grey) of New South Wales (AVH 2020; NSW DPIE 2020a; DAWE 2012).

## Population estimate and trends

*Grevillea caleyi* was first collected in 1805 by George Caley (AVH 2020). Within the three currently known subpopulations, there are ca. 1000 mature individuals over 26 sites. Two of these sites are thought to be the product of accidental translocation (DEC 2004). Occupied habitat is considered a better indicator of conservation status than abundance, which can fluctuate by up to two orders of magnitude after fire (Scott and Auld 2004). The sites where *G. caleyi* occurs range in size from 5 m<sup>2</sup> to 3.5 ha, and only two patches are relatively undisturbed (DEC 2004). Time-series monitoring indicates the population continues to decline (Auld 2004).

The habitat requirements of *G. caleyi* are well-understood and potential habitat has been extensively surveyed. Ongoing surveys are recommended given the fluctuations in response to fire.

## Habitat and ecology

*Grevillea caleyi* occurs in lateritic soils on ridgetops at 170-240 m above sea level amongst open sclerophyll forest dominated by *Eucalyptus sieberi* and *E. gummifera* (DEC 2004). Less often, it grows amongst low open forests of *E. gummifera* and *E. haemastoma*. The geology is dominated by Hawkesbury sandstone with laterite capping, weathering to orange-red, iron-rich gravelly soils (DEC 2004). Associated species include *E. capitellata*, *E. oblonga*, *Angophora costata*, *Banksia serrata*, *Acacia myrtifolia* and *B. spinulosa* (AVH 2020).

Flowering occurs between autumn and winter, and also sporadically throughout the year (DEC 2004). Fruit with a single seed mature from November to December and fall to the ground (DEC 2004). *Grevillea caleyi* usually grows in clusters due to this passive dispersal system. *Grevillea caleyi* is killed by fire, which also promotes germination of soil-stored seed (Regan *et al.* 2003). Between 55-100% of seeds germinate following fire, with high intensity fires associated with greater plant death and germination (Regan *et al.* 2003). Seedling establishment is rare in the absence of fire, thus subpopulations typically comprise single-aged cohorts (Auld and Regan 2004).

An individual aged over 10 years produces ~15 seeds annually and viability is generally high (69-95%), although declines markedly with time (Auld *et al.* 2000). Soil-stored seed can remain viable for 15-20 years post-fire (Auld *et al.* 2000). Despite this apparently persistent seedbank, the species is vulnerable to extreme fluctuations as post-fire germination can vary by an order of magnitude (or more) at the site scale. The soil seedbank is also impacted by fire and is not a sufficient buffer against these fluctuations (T Auld pers.comm. 2020). A high proportion (50-100%) of seeds are lost to predation by bush rats and swamp wallabies, which is highest after fire and declines thereafter (Auld and Denham 2001). Seed predation has also been observed at fruit stage by the weevil *Cydmaea dorsalis* (DEC 2004) and eastern whipbird (Gosper and Llorens 2008). In some cases, post-fire germination is very low (related to fire intensity), leading to long-term decay of the seedbank in the absence of additional seed input (T Auld pers.comm. 2020). Where high levels of seed germination do occur, survivorship (and thus future seed production) can be severely limited by grazing pressure from macropods and rabbits that concentrate in the burnt areas (T Auld pers.comm. 2020).

*Grevillea caleyi* reaches reproductive maturity 3-5 years after germination. Individuals will senesce from 8 years, with few individuals living beyond 20 years in the absence of fire (Auld and Scott 2004). Generation length is estimated between 8-15 years (TSSC 2018). However, as recruitment and mortality are regulated by fire return intervals, the actual generation length is probably 7-17 years (TSSC 2018).

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                            | Estimate                                                | Reliability |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence       | 56 km <sup>2</sup>                                      | High        |
| Trend                      | Decreasing                                              | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual) | 56 km <sup>2</sup> (0.08 km <sup>2</sup> )              | High        |
| Trend                      | Decreasing                                              | High        |
| No. of mature individuals  | 1000-3000                                               | Low         |
| Trend                      | Decreasing                                              | High        |
| No. of subpopulations      | 3                                                       | Medium      |
| Trend                      | Decreasing                                              | High        |
| No. locations (key threat) | 3 (habitat loss/urbanisation)                           | High        |
| Trend                      | Stable                                                  | High        |
| Probability of extinction  | ≥50% in 3 generations (Regan and Auld 2004; TSSC 2018). |             |
| Generation length          | 7-17 years                                              | High        |
| Extreme fluctuations       | Documented                                              | High        |
| Severely fragmented        | Yes                                                     | High        |
| Continuing decline         | Observed and projected                                  | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| B1ab(i-v)c(iv) | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; and continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, and number of mature individuals; and extreme fluctuations in the number of mature individuals. |
| C2b            | EN: <2500 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and extreme fluctuations in the number of mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                     |
| D2             | VU: <5 locations and plausible future threat.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| E              | CR: extinction probability estimated as ≥50% within 3 generations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                        | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss/<br>urbanisation<br><i>Past and ongoing</i> | Majority | Rapid    | High          | More than 85% of <i>G. caleyi</i> habitat has been cleared for urban development. The species formerly existed in three larger subpopulations, which have been severely fragmented by land clearing (DEC 2004; IUCN 2019; Llorens <i>et al.</i> 2004, 2018). Habitat loss is ongoing and operates at the subpopulation/land tenure scale (three locations), with significant losses about to occur due to road widening (T Auld pers. comm. 2019). |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i>             | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | <i>Grevillea caleyi</i> requires hot fire to germinate and replace mature individuals that have senesced (Auld and Scott 2004). Too-frequent cool fires, which kill adults but fail to stimulate germination, can cause population declines. Successive fires that do not allow seed bank accumulation can also cause population declines (Auld and Scott 2004).                                                                                   |
| Seed predation<br><i>Ongoing</i>                         | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | Replenishment of the soil seedbank is limited by high rates of seed predation. Between 50-100% of seed set each year is predated by mammals. Seed predation is highest following fire but declines thereafter (Auld and Denham 2001).                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Grazing pressure (feral and native)<br><i>Ongoing</i>    | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | There are often high levels of seedling mortality post-fire due to grazing pressure from macropods and rabbits, which congregate in the burnt areas. This has impacts on the number of mature individuals and future seedbank input, reducing total population size in the long-term (T Auld pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                     |
| Human activities<br><i>Ongoing</i>                       | Minority | Slow     | Low           | Rubbish dumping including building rubble has occurred at sites close to urban development that are sources of invasive weeds (DEC 2004).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Genetic diversity<br><i>Future</i>                       | Whole    | Slow     | Medium        | Remnant patches are genetically distinct (Llorens <i>et al.</i> 2004, 2018) and all sites need to be protected to retain this genetic diversity (DEC 2004).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Future</i>                          | Majority | Slow     | Medium        | <i>Grevillea caleyi</i> occurs in small remnants in close proximity to roadsides and urban development. Invasive weeds increase competition and alter fuel loads and thus fire regimes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Future</i>                    | Whole    | Unknown  | Unknown       | <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> occurs very close to known subpopulations, and is predicted to have impacts on some species and thus habitat quality. However, susceptibility of <i>G. caleyi</i> is unknown (T Auld pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                               |



## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (Scott *et al.* 1995; DEC 2004; NSW DPIE 2020b) and implemented under the Saving our Species Strategy, including weed control, rubbish removal, fencing, signage, stakeholder liaison and research into fire and germination ecology.
- Some habitat is protected in Ku Ring Gai National Park and Garigal National Park.
- Monitoring of population abundance, habitat condition and threats is ongoing (NSW DPIE 2020b).
- A small development mitigation translocation occurred in Terrey Hills, Sydney, in 2010-2011 involving the removal of 11 whole plants and soil seedbank (Total Earth Care 2011, 2012).

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Protect habitat of known subpopulations in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Establish *ex situ sub* populations as a conservation resource.
- Increase the number of subpopulations in the wild via translocation.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                        | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Monitor subpopulations to determine response of population abundance/demographics to threats and management activities. | High     |
| Introduced pathogens                       | Determine the vulnerability of the species to phytophthora, which is present in the area.                               | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Determine factors required for successful translocations.                                                               | High     |
|                                            | Identify suitable habitat for translocations on secure tenure.                                                          | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                         | Protect all known habitat including historical, current and potential regardless of population abundance, which fluctuates with fire. Currently unoccupied habitat may provide sites for translocation as suitable habitat is limited.                              | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Implement appropriate fire regimes to increase the abundance of the species in the longer term (Auld and Scott 2013). High severity fires that burn 20-100% of the sub populations every 10-15 years are suggested (Regan <i>et al.</i> 2003, Auld and Scott 2013). | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Maintain and expand seed collection to represent the maximum range of genetic diversity possible.                                                                                                                                                                   | High     |
|                                            | Reinforce wild subpopulations with propagated individuals                                                                                                                                                                                                           | High     |
|                                            | Establish translocated subpopulations in suitable habitat on secure tenure.                                                                                                                                                                                         | High     |
| Seed predation                             | Reduce seed predation, particularly at smaller sites (Regan <i>et al.</i> 2003).                                                                                                                                                                                    | Medium   |
|                                            | Collect seed and undertake direct seeding at appropriate sites prior to burning.                                                                                                                                                                                    | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Tony Auld.

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## *Grevillea calliantha* R.Makinson & P.Olde [PROTEACEAE] Foote's grevillea, Cataby grevillea, black magic grevillea



*Grevillea calliantha* conflorescence and foliage (image: Fred and Jean Hort).

### Overview

*Grevillea calliantha* occurs in the heavily cleared agricultural landscape of south-western Western Australia. Despite the implementation of two recovery plans, declines are continuing due to lack of appropriate disturbance to stimulate recruitment. Translocations have been undertaken with reasonable survivorship but no recruitment. Future recovery actions should focus on improving habitat quality, implementing suitable disturbance regimes to encourage natural regeneration and implementing translocations to suitable sites.

### Conservation status

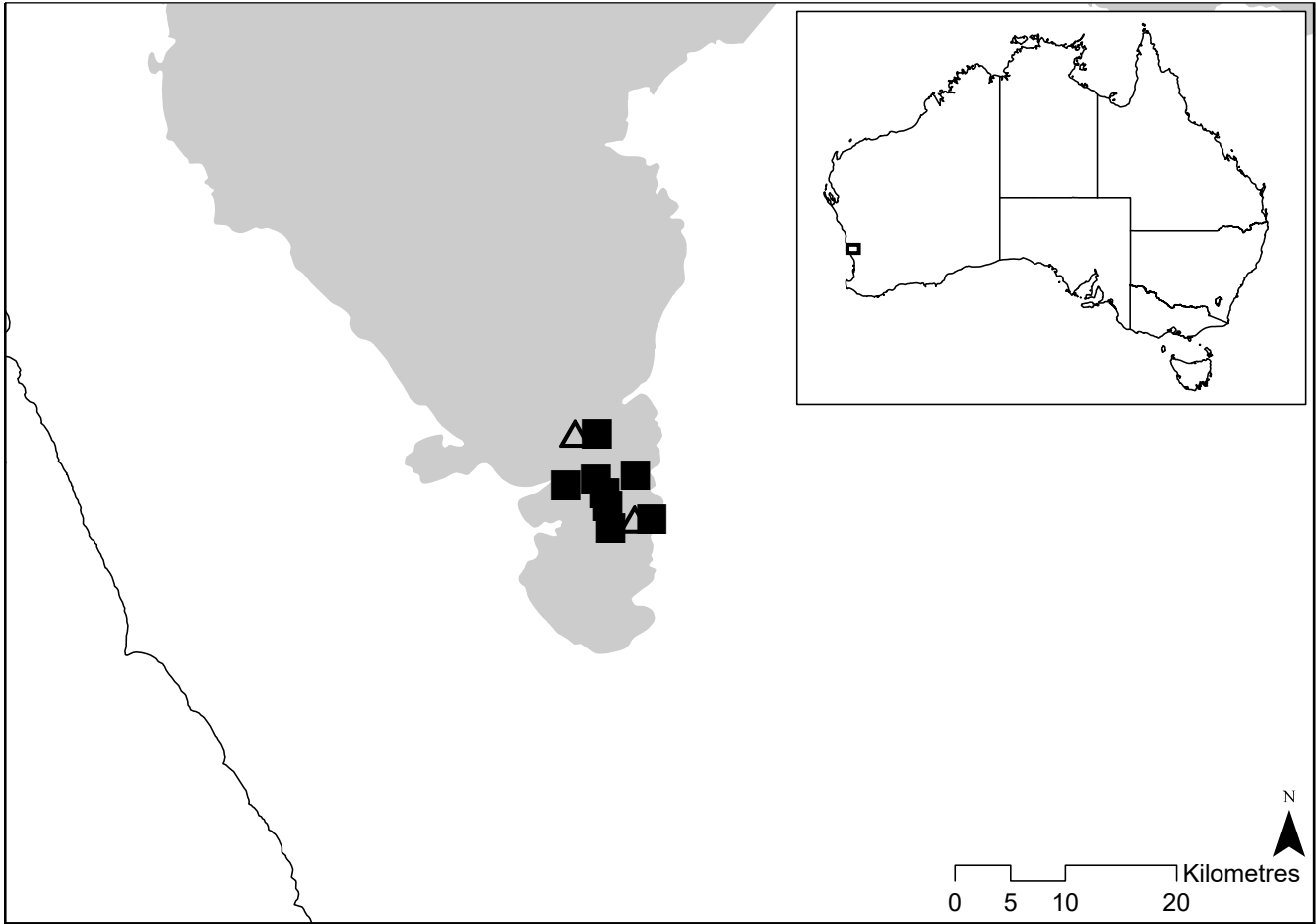
|                                                                      |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered            |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered |
| IUCN Red List                                                        | Critically Endangered |

### Brief description

Spreading shrub to 1 m with ridged and hairy branches. The green to grey-yellow leaves reach 7.5 cm long and are deeply divided with up to seven lobes (Makinson 2000). The conflorescence comprises 15-30 hairy flowers each 8 mm long that age from green-yellow to apricot-orange and have a maroon-black style 30-40 mm long. Fruits are also densely hairy, reaching 18 mm long and 9 mm wide. *Grevillea calliantha* differs from the closely-related *G. hookeriana* in its longer pistils and decurved conflorescences (Makinson 2000).

## Distribution

*Grevillea calliantha* is known from a very restricted distribution near Cataby in the Geraldton Sandplains bioregion of south-western Western Australia (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020).



Current distribution (black squares) of *Grevillea calliantha* including translocation sites that are not yet self-sustaining (hollow triangles) within the Geraldton Sandplains bioregion (shaded grey) of Western Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020; Silcock *et al.* 2019).

## Population estimate and trends

*Grevillea calliantha* is currently known from six subpopulations with 27 mature individuals, which has declined from 42 mature individuals in 2017 (L Monks pers.comm. 2021).. In 2014, there were 168 mature individuals across the six subpopulations (DPW 2014). The species was first recorded in 1981 and five additional subpopulations were located with subsequent searching (AVH 2020; Department of Parks and Wildlife 2014). Heavy clearing within the distribution of the species has fragmented the habitat, with most individuals occurring on roadsides or private property (DPW 2014). Surveys have been undertaken within the range of the species although further surveys are recommended (DPW 2014).

Two translocations have been implemented in remnant bushland (Silcock *et al.* 2019). A translocation was established in 1998 near Subpopulation 1 and has been augmented on several occasions, most recently in 2015 and 2018.

In 2018, there were 309 extant plants including 245 recently-planted seedlings. A second translocation was established in 2010 with ongoing augmentation, and contained 189 plants in 2018, including 43 recently-planted seedlings. Three natural recruits were recorded at the first translocation in 2013, but none survived their first summer (DPW 2014; Silcock *et al.* 2019).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                       | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                                                                                                                         | Trend      |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 WSW of Dandaragan<br>(Shire water reserve) | 1988: 4 (4)<br>1993: 6 (16)<br>1994: 1 (10)<br>1998: 6 (0) + 106T<br>2000: 5 (0) + 22T<br>2002: 7 (1) + 302T<br>2007: 5 (0) + 98T<br>2011: 0 + 63T<br>2016: 0 + 64T<br>2018: 0 + 309T (including 245T seedlings) | Decreasing |
| 2* WSW of Dandaragan<br>(Shire road reserve) | 1988: 14<br>1995: 17<br>1998: 18 (1)<br>2000: 34 (9)<br>2002: 35<br>2007: 1<br>2010: 10 (1)<br>2011: 10<br>2012: 10<br>2014: 7<br>2016: 6<br>2017: 6<br>2020: 6                                                  | Decreasing |
| 4 WSW of Dandaragan<br>(Private property)    | 1988: 5<br>1990: 14<br>1993: 104+<br>1998: 100<br>2007: 27 (2)<br>2009: 23<br>2011: 32<br>2016: 15<br>2017: 13<br>2020: 10                                                                                       | Decreasing |
| 5 WSW of Dandaragan<br>(Shire road reserve)  | 1988: 7<br>1995: 5<br>1998: 3<br>2000: 6<br>2002: 4<br>2007: 3<br>2010: 3<br>2014: 0<br>2016: 0                                                                                                                  | Decreasing |
| 6 WSW of Dandaragan<br>(Shire road reserve)  | 1990: 14<br>1992: 14<br>1995: 14<br>1998: 6 (1)<br>2000: 12<br>2007: 14<br>2010: 14<br>2016: 11<br>2020: 9                                                                                                       | Stable     |
| 7 WSW of Dandaragan<br>(private property)    | 2003: 20<br>2008: 13 (1)<br>2011: 23<br>2012: 25<br>2016: 10<br>2017: 12<br>2020: 2                                                                                                                              | Decreasing |

| Subpopulation (tenure)                              | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                   | Trend                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8 (T <sup>^</sup> ) W of Dandargan (nature reserve) | 2010: 177T<br>2012: 183T<br>2013: 169T<br>2014: 147T<br>2016: 146T<br>2018: 189T (including 43T seedlings) | Stable (not yet self-sustaining) |

Translocated individuals/subpopulation (T). \*Subpopulations 2 and 3 are combined given close proximity. ^Multiple translocation plantings have occurred.

## Habitat and ecology

*Grevillea calliantha* occurs in sandy to sandy-clay soils among low open woodland of *Eucalyptus todtiana* and *Corymbia calophylla* on lower to mid-hillslopes (DPW 2014). Associated species include *Acacia saligna*, *A. pulchella*, *Adenanthos cygnorum*, *Allocasuarina humilis*, *Anigozanthos humilis*, *Banksia attenuata*, *Calothamnus sanguineus*, *C. quadrifidus*, *Conostephium pendulum*, *Conostylis teretifolia*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Elythranthera brunonis*, *Eremaea asterocarpa*, *Gastrolobium spinosum*, *Hakea incrassata*, *H. prostrata*, *H. trifurcata*, *Hibbertia hypericoides*, *Hypocalymma angustifolium*, *Stirlingia latifolia*, *Synaphea spinulosa*, *Thryptomene mucronulata* and *Xanthorrhoea preissii* (DPW 2014).

Flowering is prolific in spring and summer with >70 000 flowers per plant recorded, but seed is typically limited to ca. 120 seeds per plant (Armstrong 2001). Seed set increases alongside pollinator activity and individuals in more disturbed sites produce fewer seeds (Armstrong 2001). Seed is released over summer and germination is stimulated by disturbance including fire (Armstrong 2001). This indicates the species has a persistent soil seedbank, and therefore extreme fluctuations are not likely (IUCN 2019). *Grevillea calliantha* can also sprout from lower stems and 'daughter' plants appear from the roots of mature plants following fire (Armstrong 2001). Survivorship of seedlings is generally low and individuals do not flower for at least 5 years (Armstrong 2001), although plants at the translocation site began to flower and set seed at 3-4 years of age (Dillon *et al.* 2010 in DPW 2014). Individuals can live for at least 30 years (L Monks pers.comm. 2020) and generation length is estimated at 15 years.

A population viability analysis indicated subpopulations were in decline and possibly not viable in the long-term (Armstrong 2001). Adult deaths exceeded the recruitment rate due to few germination events between fires. The model determined autumn fires every 7-15 years would reduce extinction probability (DPW 2014).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                 | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 24 km <sup>2</sup> (15 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| Area of occupancy             | 24 km <sup>2</sup>                       | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 42                                       | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 6 (lack of recruitment/fire)             | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 6                                        | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| Generation length             | 15 years                                 | Medium      |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                           | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                      | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                   | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                             |
| B1ab(i-v)      | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                            |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                         |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                                       | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                                             | n/a      | n/a        | n/a           | Land clearing for agriculture has resulted in the decline and fragmentation of available habitat for the species. The species is considered severely fragmented as all subpopulations are very small, and isolated in narrow roadside strips surrounded by cleared land.                                                                        |
| Lack of recruitment/<br>inappropriate fire<br>regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Very rapid | High          | Most subpopulations are declining as mature individuals reach senescence in the absence of appropriate disturbance to stimulate recruitment. The recommended fire regime is autumn burns every 7-15 years (DPW 2014). The species occurs at six locations, as fire is managed at the subpopulation/land tenure scale.                           |
| Infrastructure<br>maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i>                         | Majority | Slow       | Medium        | All subpopulations are small and the majority occur on roadside reserves or private property. These are threatened by activities associated with the maintenance of roads, fences and firebreaks including mowing, herbicide spraying, grading and drain construction. Roadside subpopulations have been marked and the Shire is aware of them. |
| Grazing (native and<br>feral)<br><i>Ongoing</i>                         | Majority | Slow       | Medium        | Macropods and rabbits are known to forage on <i>G. calliantha</i> (DPW 2014), but impacts are not well-documented. Two subpopulations are fenced and some plants have been caged.                                                                                                                                                               |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                        | Majority | Unknown    | Unknown       | Invasive weeds are present at most subpopulations, which may increase competition and alter fuel loads but specific impacts on subpopulations are not well-documented.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Future</i>                                   | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | Under laboratory conditions one individual tested as susceptible to phytophthora <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> . Further testing with a larger sample size is required (DPW 2014).                                                                                                                                                              |



## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts 2008; DPW 2014).
- Relevant stakeholders have been notified of the subpopulations and legal obligations regarding protection. Markers have been installed at roadside subpopulations.
- Some subpopulations have been fenced to prevent grazing and cages were installed over emerging seedlings to prevent defoliation by macropods and rabbits.
- Research on the population dynamics has been undertaken (Armstrong 2001).
- Two translocations have been undertaken, including experimental treatments to determine factors that influence successful establishment.
- 1468 seeds have been stored at the Western Australian Seed Centre and germination trials have been undertaken. The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority have eight plants from four clones in the nursery.
- The species is widely cultivated in the horticultural industry.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Protect habitat of known subpopulations in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Maintain and expand *ex situ* seed collections.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations by improving habitat quality and undertaking translocations (augmentation, introductions).

## Information required

| Theme                                                     | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                    | Priority |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Introduced pathogens                                      | Undertake research to better understand the potential/actual impact of phytophthora on wild subpopulations of <i>G. calliantha</i> to inform management strategies. | High     |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes/<br>lack of recruitment | Undertake research to better understand the disturbance requirements of the species.                                                                                | High     |
|                                                           | Determine appropriate measures to increase survivorship of seedlings/juveniles post-germination.                                                                    | High     |
| Population surveys                                        | Monitor subpopulations to better understand response to recovery actions and threats, particularly invasive weeds and grazing.                                      | High     |
|                                                           | Undertake systematic surveys in potential habitat to locate additional populations.                                                                                 | Medium   |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                        | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                         | Protect known habitat in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                                                           | High     |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes          | Implement suitable fire regime or other soil disturbance to stimulate germination at all subpopulations.                                                | High     |
| Grazing                                    | Protect subpopulations from grazing via caging of seedlings and fencing, particularly after translocations or germination events.                       | High     |
| Invasive weeds                             | Control invasive weeds within habitat to reduce competition, particularly after disturbance events.                                                     | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Maintain and expand <i>ex situ</i> seed collections to represent maximum range of genetic diversity.                                                    | High     |
|                                            | Continue existing translocations through site maintenance, further augmentation and implementation of appropriate disturbance to stimulate recruitment. | High     |
|                                            | Continue to implement translocations to establish additional subpopulations.                                                                            | High     |
| Introduced pathogens                       | Maintain disease hygiene measures and adapt management as necessary.                                                                                    | High     |
| Extension and awareness                    | Raise awareness of the species with relevant stakeholders in attempts to locate additional subpopulations.                                              | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Leonie Monks, Andrew Crawford and Tanya Llorens.

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## *Grevillea hodgei* Olde&Marriot [PROTEACEAE] Coochin Hills grevillea



*Grevillea hodgei* confluence at Rupari Hill (image: Glenn Leiper) and growing on Western Peak of Coochin Hills (image: Jen Silcock).

### Overview

*Grevillea hodgei* is known from three subpopulations on two hills surrounded by urbanised areas near Beerwah in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. Two subpopulations occur in national park but some plants are hybridising with garden escapee *G. banksii*, which is planted in urban gardens nearby. The third subpopulation at Rupari Hill has undergone a substantial decline due to infrastructure development and lack of recruitment. Several other threatened species occur on this hill, making it an important potential conservation reserve.

### Conservation status

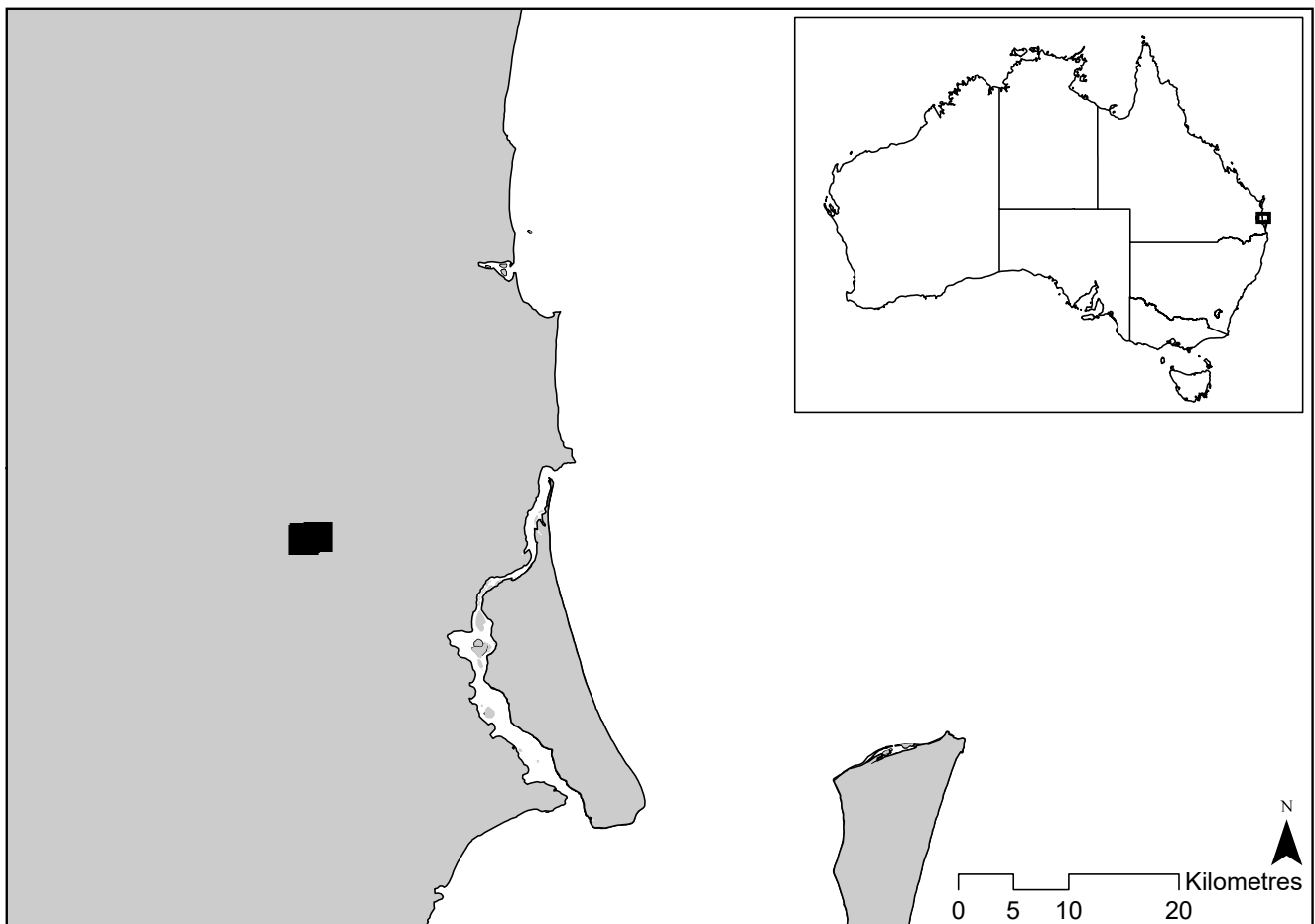
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Not listed                         |
| <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>                                  | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Endangered (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Erect shrub to 5 m tall (Makinson 2000). Leaves 6-19 cm long, deeply divided into 6-14 parallel, linear lobes each 5-12 cm long and 1.5-2.8 mm wide that are hairy underneath. Confluence simple, erect and cylindrical with creamy-yellow flowers that have dense brown hairs (Makinson 2000). Follicles hairy and 13-14 mm long. *Grevillea hodgei* is similar to *G. whiteana*, but has shorter confluences (2-8 cm rather than 8-12 cm), shorter pistils (26-35 mm rather than 43-46 mm) and more abundant and persistent rusty-brown hairs on the outer perianth (Makinson 2000).

### Distribution

*Grevillea hodgei* is known from Rupari Hill and Mt Coochin near Beerwah in the South East Queensland bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Queensland Herbarium 2020). *Grevillea hodgei* is considered severely fragmented as all subpopulations are small and occur on isolated mountain peaks, with dispersal capacity further limited by ongoing urbanisation.



Current distribution (black squares) of *Grevillea hodgei* in the South Eastern Queensland bioregion (shaded grey) in Queensland (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; QH 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Grevillea hodgei* is currently known from three small subpopulations with <250 mature individuals. Time-series monitoring has not been undertaken, but population trends can be gleaned from historical records (AVH 2020; QH 2020) and observations.

At Rupari Hill, historical collections indicate the species was growing across the site proposed for the water tower in 1973 (QH 2020). Despite destruction of these individuals, the species remains common in a thicket on the southern summit in 1993 (G Leiper pers.comm. 2020). In 2014, 35 individuals were recorded at this subpopulation (R Callen pers.comm. 2020), which had declined to 15 in 2020. In 2020, four plants were growing on the summit and 11 plants over 150 m below outcropping rock on the mid-slopes (J Silcock, R Callen unpublished data).

At Mt Coochin in 1967 *G. hodgei* was 'scattered over several acres near the top of the NW slope' (QH 2020). In 2020, two separate subpopulations were identified. On the western peak, 115 plants were counted within 300 x 150 m, and on the lower slopes of the eastern peak there were 27 plants over 300 x 100 m (J Silcock, R Fensham unpublished data). An estimated 70% of potential suitable habitat was searched during this survey, thus the total population size is likely to be <250 plants (J Silcock, R Fensham unpublished data). Demographic structure of these subpopulations suggests no past or ongoing decline, but there are reports of plants being killed during recreational activities.

This species occurs in the well-surveyed region of south-eastern Queensland. Targeted surveys have been undertaken on the Glasshouse Mountains peaks and unrecorded subpopulations are unlikely.

## Habitat and ecology

*Grevillea hodgei* occurs on well-drained, skeletal, sandy loam soils amongst exposed trachyte rock outcrops (QH 2020). At Rupari Hill, it grows on mid-upper slopes in shrubby woodland where the trachyte soil meets the underlying sandstone layer (R Callen pers.comm. 2020) and in montane heath on the summit. Suitable habitat is relatively limited at Mt Coochin, where *G. hodgei* is typically restricted to exposed trachyte outcrops and open grassy woodland on low slopes, rather than the more ubiquitous heathland and wet sclerophyll forests (J Silcock pers.comm. 2020). Commonly associated species include *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *Lophostemon suaveolens*, *Corymbia trachyphloia* and *Xanthorrhoea latifolia* (QH 2020).

Flowering occurs all year but peaks in March and October (QH 2020). Flowers provide an abundant food source for nectivorous birds and arboreal mammals, which pollinate the species. *Grevillea hodgei* is thought to be killed by fire and regenerates from seed after this disturbance, but can also germinate after mechanical disturbance as observed on Rupari Hill (R Callen pers.comm. 2020). Generation length is unknown, however individuals can live for at least 10 years (R Callen pers.comm. 2020) and possibly much longer, given that many plants have been observed re-sprouting from the base (J Silcock pers.obs. 2020).

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                   | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.574 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.03 km <sup>2</sup> )  | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | <250                                       | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (hybridisation)                          | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                     | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 3                                          | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                     | High        |
| Generation length             | Unknown                                    | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                             | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                        | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                     | High        |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                            |
| B1+2ab(iii,v)  | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; and continuing decline observed and projected in area/extent and quality of habitat, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(ii)        | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and >90% of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                                        |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                        |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                              | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Genetic diversity<br><i>Ongoing and future</i> | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | <i>Grevillea hodgei</i> can hybridise with horticultural <i>Grevillea</i> varieties when grown in cultivation (G Leiper pers.comm. 2019). There is evidence of hybridisation occurring with garden escapee <i>G. banksii</i> on the eastern peak of Mt Coochin, where both species and intermediates were found (R Fensham pers.comm. 2020). Given the proximity of all subpopulations to urban areas, hybridisation is considered a threat to all subpopulations.               |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i>   | Minority | Rapid    | Medium        | Water and microwave tower construction removed a large proportion of habitat on Rupari Hill crest. Further clearing for easements and access tracks has occurred. Ongoing maintenance has resulted in damage to at least two of the few remaining mature <i>G. hodgei</i> and poisoning of several seedlings at this site (G Leiper pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                            |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i>   | Whole    | Unknown  | Unknown       | <i>G. hodgei</i> is thought to be killed by fire and regenerate from seed. Appropriate fire regimes to ensure long-term persistence are unknown. Rupari Hill has not burnt in the past 15 years, vegetation is dense and no young plants were observed (J Silcock per.obs. 2020). Mt Coochin burnt in 2010 (North Australian Fire Information 2020). In 2020, plants were healthy and included a range of sizes, although no seedlings were recorded (J Silcock pers.obs. 2020). |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>               | Minority | Slow     | Low           | Ochna and lantana are scattered at the subpopulation on Rupari Hill, and in low densities at the eastern peak subpopulation on Mt Coochin. At present they are not impacting the <i>G. hodgei</i> , but may increase.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Human impacts<br><i>Future</i>                 | Minority | Slow     | Low           | The subpopulation on Rupari Hill occurs on freehold tenure and is surrounded by housing development. Firewood collection, tree ringbarking and poisoning have been reported. The Mt Coochin subpopulations occur close to a well-used hiking trail and incidental damage has been reported in the past, but there were no signs of people leaving the trail in the vicinity of the plants in 2020.                                                                               |

## Current management

- Two subpopulations are protected in the Glasshouse Mountains National Park and listed in the management plan, which includes implementation of appropriate fire regimes (Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing 2013), although the requirements of *G. hodgei* are not known.
- A campaign to raise awareness of the ecological values of Rupari Hill and protect the site from further development has been underway for a number of years (G Leiper pers.comm. 2019).
- Some surveys are undertaken intermittently by the Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network Inc. to monitor the trends and threats.



## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Protect subpopulations from hybridisation with *Grevillea* garden varieties.
- Protect habitat at Rupari Hill in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Increase the number of individuals at Rupari Hill through translocation.
- Increase knowledge about the species' disturbance requirements.

### Information required

| Theme                    | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                             | Priority |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys       | Commence regular monitoring of subpopulations to understand responses to threats and management actions, particularly fire and hybridisation.                                | High     |
|                          | Monitor incursions of horticultural <i>Grevillea</i> spp. into habitat of <i>G. hodgei</i> .                                                                                 | High     |
|                          | Undertake targeted surveys at unsurveyed but potentially suitable habitat (based on satellite imagery) on Mt Coochin.                                                        | High     |
| Life history and ecology | Investigate the life history, ecology and germination requirements of the species, particularly population age structure and response to fire.                               | High     |
|                          | Undertake research on conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations at Rupari Hill. | High     |

### Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat quality                            | Acquire land at Rupari Hill if possible, or protect under appropriate conservation agreements. The remnant vegetation at Rupari Hill would protect several other threatened species including <i>Leucopogon recurvisepalus</i> and <i>Eucalyptus curtisii</i> , making it an important conservation reserve. | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Implement appropriate fire regimes to ensure persistence of the species, particularly at Rupari Hill.                                                                                                                                                                                                        | High     |
| Invasive weeds                             | Remove <i>G. banksii</i> plants and hybrids growing with <i>G. hodgei</i> at Mt Coochin (east peak).                                                                                                                                                                                                         | High     |
|                                            | Monitor invasive weeds at Rupari Hill and Mt Coochin eastern peak subpopulation, and remove by hand and targeted spraying if necessary.                                                                                                                                                                      | Medium   |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Plan and implement translocation to increase the number of individuals at Rupari Hill.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Glenn Leiper, Roger Callen, Paul Forster, Rod Fensham and Jen Silcock.

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## *Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra (R.J.Cranfield 4087) [PROTEACEAE] Gillingarra grevillea



*Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra (R.J. Cranfield 4087) flower, and seedpod and seed (images: Andrew Crawford).

### Overview

*Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra is known from a single small population on a disturbed, weedy rail reserve in south-western Western Australia. While abundance has fluctuated since it was first recorded in 1983, half the population was destroyed in 2011 due to railway maintenance and flooding, with declines projected to continue. Life history research, habitat protection and restoration, and translocation to secure tenure are required to ensure its survival.

### Conservation status

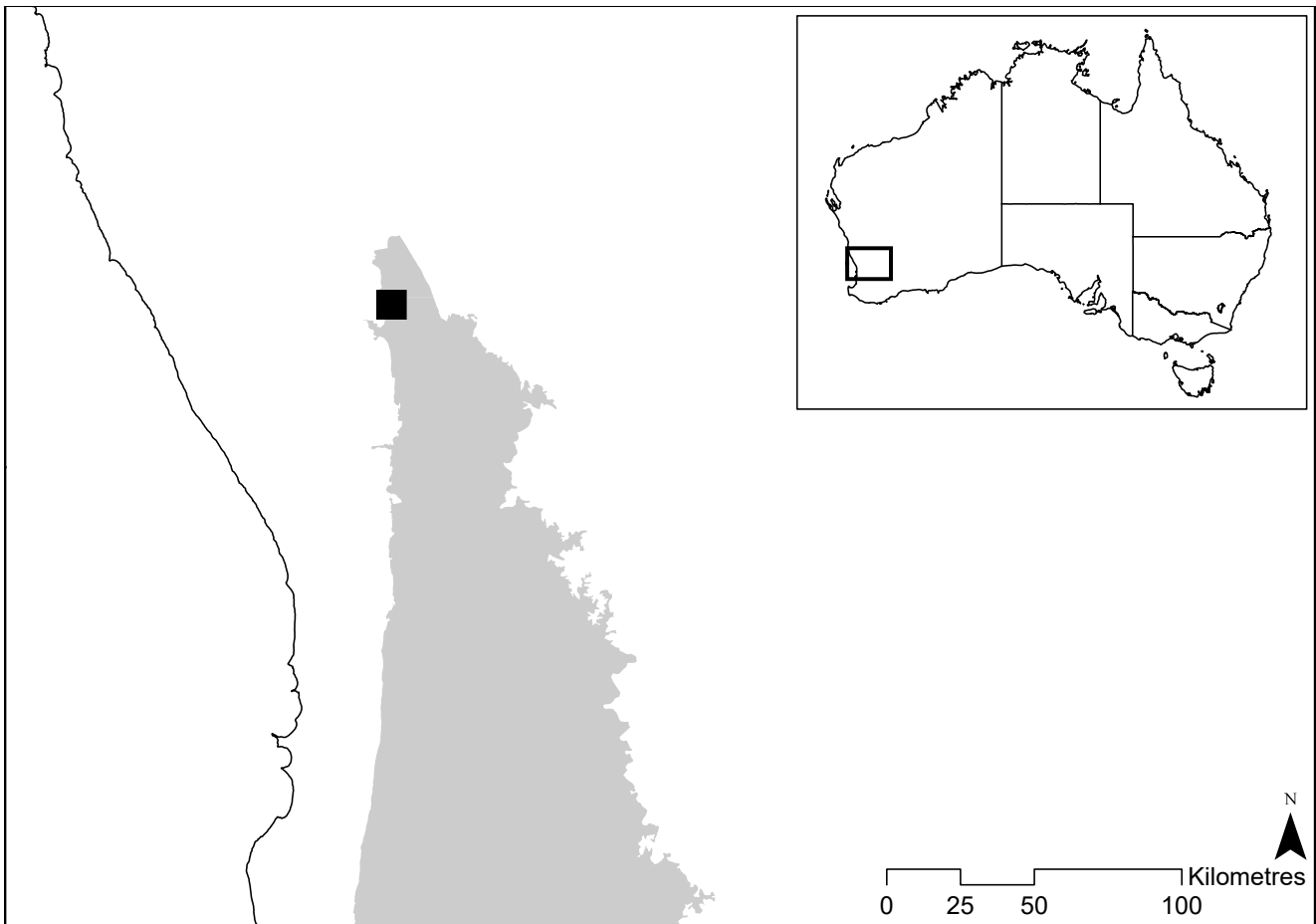
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Erect to spreading shrub to 2 m tall and 1.5 m wide, lacking a lignotuber (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2018). Branches are glabrous without obvious furrows or ridges. Leaves 1.5-2.0 cm long and deeply-divided into narrow, linear lobes 0.5 mm wide with incurved to revolute margins. Lamina glabrous above and hairy below. Conflorescence 4-5 cm long with 36-56 red flowers that are densely hairy inside with a pistil 22-28 mm long (TSSC 2018). Genetic studies indicate this taxon is distinct, and part of the *G. thelemanniana* complex, allied to the *G. delta/hirtella* species group (Department of Parks and Wildlife 2016). Collections have previously placed the taxon in the *G. preissii* complex, although it lacks a lignotuber and is larger with almost glabrous stems/flowers and shorter leaves (TSSC 2018).

### Distribution

*Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra is known from a single area south of Gillingarra in the Jarrah Forest bioregion of south-western Western Australia (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020).



Current distribution (black square) of *Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra in the Jarrah Forest bioregion (shaded grey) of Western Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra was first collected in 1983 (DPW 2016). The species is currently known from a single population of 21 mature individuals, that has declined from >100 mature individuals in 2007. A population reduction of 52% occurred in 2011, due to infrastructure maintenance and flooding (DPW 2016). Targeted surveys have been undertaken along the rail verge between Moora and Bindoon but have failed to locate additional subpopulations.

*Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra monitoring data, 1985-2020 (DBCA 2020).

| Subpopulation (tenure)             | Number of mature individuals (juveniles [dead])                                                                              | Trend      |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 Gillingarra south (rail reserve) | 1983: 'occasional'<br>1991: 12<br>2007: >100<br>2008: 6-20<br>2011: 23<br>2011: 12 [11]*<br>2013: 21<br>2015: 15<br>2017: 21 | Decreasing |

\*Plants removed during infrastructure maintenance.

## Habitat and ecology

*Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra occurs along red ironstone clay ephemeral creek banks in species-rich Kwongan (TSSC 2018). It grows amongst open *Eucalyptus wandoo* woodland and low open heath (DPW 2016). Associated species include *Allocasuarina huegeliana*, *Isopogon dubius*, *Banksia kippistiana*, *Darwinia acerosa*, *Banksia* spp. and other grevilleas (DPW 2016). Flowering occurs from winter to spring, which are pollinated by nectarivorous birds (DPW 2016). Seed is released from the fruit once it becomes mature and soil seedbank dynamics are unknown (DPW 2016), so extreme fluctuations cannot be accepted with certainty (IUCN 2019). Plants are killed by fire as they have no lignotuber (DPW 2016), indicating fire may also stimulate recruitment. Generation length is unknown, but is probably >3 years.

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                                        | Estimate                                              | Reliability  |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual)<br>Trend | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.0002 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Stable | High<br>High |
| Area of occupancy (actual)<br>Trend    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.0002 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Stable | High<br>High |
| No. of mature individuals<br>Trend     | 21<br>Decreasing                                      | High<br>High |
| No. of locations (key threat)<br>Trend | 1 (infrastructure maintenance)<br>Stable              | High<br>High |
| No. of subpopulations<br>Trend         | 1<br>Stable                                           | High<br>High |
| Generation length                      | >3 years                                              | Low          |
| Extreme fluctuations                   | Not documented                                        | Medium       |
| Severely fragmented                    | Yes                                                   | High         |
| Continuing decline                     | Observed and projected                                | High         |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A2a            | EN: >50% reduction within 3 generations (52% in 2011); causes may not have ceased; based on direct observation.                                                                                    |
| B1+2ab(iii,v)  | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; continuing decline observed and projected in number of mature individuals and habitat extent/quality. |
| C2a(i,ii)      | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation; and 100% of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                         |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                        |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                       |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                                              | Scope | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                                                    | n/a   | n/a        | n/a           | Land clearing for agriculture has resulted in the decline and fragmentation of available habitat for the species. The species is considered severely fragmented as the only subpopulation is very small, and isolated by cleared land.                           |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                   | Whole | Very rapid | High          | The entire population occurs on a railway/road reserve where grading, chemical spraying and mowing take place. In 2011, the population declined by 50% due to rail maintenance (DPW 2016). The species occurs at one location when assessed against this threat. |
| Lack of recruitment/<br>inappropriate<br>disturbance regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole | Slow       | Medium        | Some recruitment has been observed. The species is likely to require disturbance to recruit, but if disturbance is too-frequent the population may not recover. The impact of current disturbance regimes is not well-understood.                                |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                               | Whole | Slow       | Medium        | Invasive weeds are present in the habitat of <i>G. sp.</i> Gillingarra (DPW 2016). Invasive weeds increase competition and alter fuel loads and thus fire regimes.                                                                                               |

| Threat and timing                            | Scope | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole | Unknown    | Unknown       | Although the species may germinate from soil-stored seed following fire, adult plants are killed by fire and the population may not recover if fire intervals are too short. The effect of current fire regimes is not well-documented. |
| Genetic diversity<br><i>Future</i>           | Whole | Unknown    | Unknown       | Given the small population size the species may have limited genetic diversity (DPW 2016).                                                                                                                                              |
| Stochastic events<br><i>Future</i>           | Whole | Very rapid | Medium        | Given the small population and single location, this species is extremely vulnerable to stochastic events such as drought, flooding or repeated wildfires.                                                                              |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (DPW 2016; TSSC 2018).
- *Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra occurs on a rail reserve managed by Arc Infrastructure (DPW 2016). Arc Infrastructure have been made aware of the species and their conservation obligations, and markers are installed at the location.
- There have been no translocations of this species. Seed was collected from 13 individuals in 2013, with 178 seeds stored at the Western Australian Seed Centre and 75 stored at the Millennium Seed Bank. Viability of this seed was high (>75%) during trials. A further 121 seeds from six individuals were collected in 2016, five seeds from one individual were collected in 2018 and 41 seeds from three individuals were collected in 2019, and are stored at the Western Australian Seed Centre.
- The taxon is morphologically and genetically distinct (TSSC 2018), but is yet to be formally described.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain the known population.
- Detect additional subpopulations through targeted surveys.
- Protect habitat of the known population in an appropriate conservation agreement.
- Continue to collect seed for storage for potential future translocation
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via translocation (introductions).

## Information required

| Theme                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Taxonomy                   | Undertake taxonomic study and formally describe the species.                                                                                                                                                                          | High     |
| Population surveys         | Undertake targeted surveys in potential habitat during spring, particularly post-fire, in an attempt to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                             | High     |
|                            | Undertake regular monitoring to observe impacts of recovery actions and threatening processes.                                                                                                                                        | High     |
| Life history and ecology   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes | Determine a suitable fire regime for the species to increase the number of mature individuals.                                                                                                                                        | High     |



## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                         | Protect known and potential habitat in appropriate conservation agreements. The species co-occurs with <i>Banksia serratulooides</i> subsp. <i>serratulooides</i> , <i>Conospermum densiflorum</i> subsp. <i>unicephalatum</i> and <i>Darwinia acerosa</i> , so this may benefit multiple threatened species. | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Collect and store seed representing the maximum range of genetic diversity possible. Implement translocation to secure tenure.                                                                                                                                                                                | High     |
| Invasive weeds                             | Control invasive weeds within the immediate population and broader habitat of <i>G. sp.</i> Gillingarra.                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Medium   |
| Habitat rehabilitation                     | Revegetate habitat that was lost during 2011 due to rail infrastructure maintenance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Medium   |
| Extension and awareness                    | Raise awareness of the species with conservation groups and other relevant stakeholders in an attempt to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                    | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Andrew Crawford, Bree Phillips and Tanya Llorens.

## References

- Australasian Virtual Herbarium (2020) '*Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra (R.J.Cranfield 4087) specimen records'. (The Australasian Virtual Herbarium, Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria) Accessed at: [avh.chah.org.au](http://avh.chah.org.au) [Verified 20 October 2020]
- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (2012) 'Interim biogeographic regionalisation for Australia (regions – states and territories) v. 7 (IBRA) [ESRI shapefile]'. (Commonwealth of Australia: Canberra) Available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/fed/catalog/search/resource/details.page?uuid=%7B3166C0C2-CA6E-42A9-883A-B9839C61B49C%7D> [Verified 21 September 2020]
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2020) 'Threatened and Priority Flora Database search for *Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra, prepared for the Threatened Species Recovery Hub National Action Plan for Australia's Most Imperilled Plants, June 2020' (Species and Communities Program: Perth).
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2016) '*Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra (R.J.Cranfield 4087) Interim Recovery Plan 2016-2021. Interim Recovery Plan 373'. (Department of Parks and Wildlife: Western Australia) Available at: [https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/plants-animals/threatened-species/recovery\\_plans/grevillea\\_sp.\\_gillingarra.pdf](https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/plants-animals/threatened-species/recovery_plans/grevillea_sp._gillingarra.pdf) [Verified 25 September 2020]
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- Threatened Species Scientific Committee (2018) 'Conservation Advice *Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra (R.J.Cranfield 4087)'. (Department of the Environment and Energy: Canberra) Available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/86383-conservation-advice-11052018.pdf> [Verified 25 September 2020]

***Hibbertia circinata* K.L.McDougall & G.T.Wright**  
**[DILLENIACEAE]**  
 Mt Imlay hibbertia, Connie's guinea flower



*Hibbertia circinata* flowers and foliage (image: McDougall *et al.* 2018).

## Overview

*Hibbertia circinata* was described in 2018 after it was located on Balawan (Mt Imlay in south-eastern New South Wales) during fieldwork on the threatened *Eucalyptus imlayensis*. The species is known from a single, small population and is highly susceptible to the introduced root-rot fungus phytophthora *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, which occurs close by. Measures to limit the spread of phytophthora at the site are in place, but propagation with a view to translocation is urgently needed. The entire population was burnt and killed in the 2019 wildfires but seedlings have been observed where the parent plants were growing.

## Conservation status

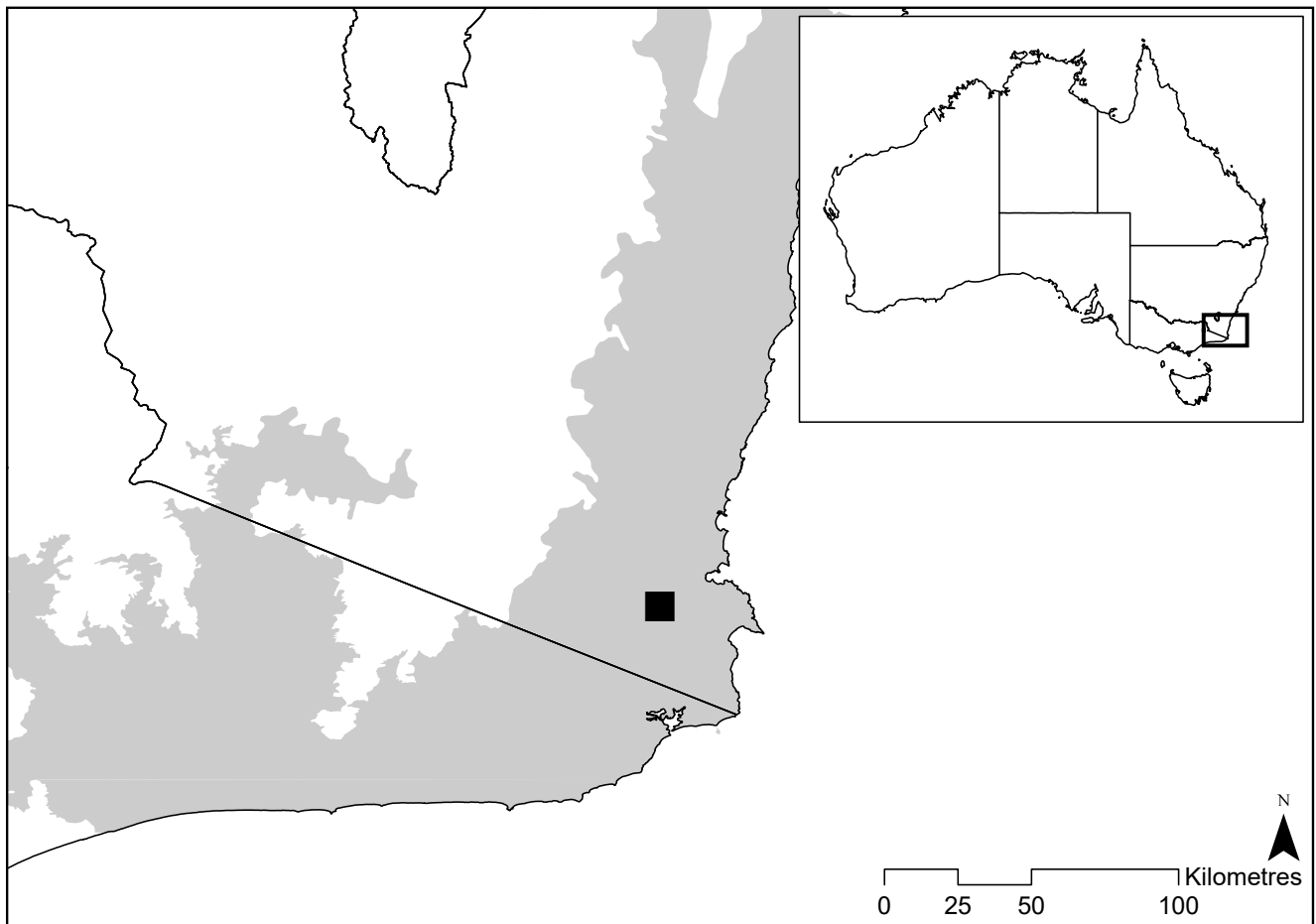
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Not listed                         |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

## Brief description

Shrub to 1.5 m tall with several to many pubescent stems (McDougall *et al.* 2018). Leaves entire, discolorous and sessile with broad, partly stem-clasping bases, 15-55 mm long and 5-8 mm wide. Flowers are solitary and axillary, with five yellow petals and a very short peduncle. Fruit not seen. Differs from *H. linearis* by having villous stems and young branches, relatively long and broad leaves that are pubescent on both surfaces, larger petals and few stamens (McDougall *et al.* 2018).

## Distribution

*Hibbertia circinata* is only known from the summit of Balawan (Mt Imlay), to the south-west of Eden in the South East Corner bioregion of New South Wales (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012). The species is considered severely fragmented as it occurs on a single, isolated mountain peak and recolonisation after local extinctions is limited by the spread of phytophthora (IUCN 2019).



Current distribution (black square) of *Hibbertia circinata* in the South East Corner bioregion (shaded grey) of New South Wales (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; McDougall *et al.* 2018).

## Population estimate and trends

*Hibbertia circinata* was known from an estimated 200-250 mature individuals in 2018. The species is highly susceptible to phytophthora. Its absence from areas where the pathogen occurs indicates a probable past decline. Further declines are anticipated as a walking track dissects the population, providing high risk of disease spread (K McDougall pers. comm. 2020). All mature plants were killed during the 2019 wildfires, but regeneration has been observed under parent plants (K McDougall pers. comm. 2020). The species has not been located at other sites during targeted surveys.

## Habitat and ecology

*Hibbertia circinata* is only known from ridges immediately below the summit of Balawan (Mt Imlay), in a narrow elevation range of 800-850 m above sea level (McDougall *et al.* 2018). It grows amongst a diverse understorey in shrubby woodland dominated by *E. sieberi* and some individuals grow beneath *E. imlayensis*. Flowering has been observed at most times of the year and is prolific in spring.

*Hibbertia circinata* is an obligate-seeder, but little is known of its seedbank dynamics. The population appeared to be even-aged before it was burnt in the 2019 wildfires (McDougall *et al.* 2018). Recruitment may be rare due to the dense shrub cover of its habitat, and was observed following the fires in April 2020 (K McDougall pers. comm. 2020). Generation length is estimated to be at least 15 years and probably a few decades (McDougall *et al.* 2018).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                                        | Estimate                                                 | Reliability    |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual)<br>Trend | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.01 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing | High<br>High   |
| Area of occupancy (actual)<br>Trend    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.01 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing | High<br>High   |
| No. of mature individuals<br>Trend     | <250<br>Decreasing                                       | Medium<br>High |
| No. of locations (key threat)<br>Trend | 1 (introduced pathogens)<br>Stable                       | High<br>High   |
| No. of subpopulations<br>Trend         | 1<br>Decreasing                                          | High<br>High   |
| Generation length                      | >15 years                                                | Medium         |
| Extreme fluctuations                   | Not documented                                           | Medium         |
| Severely fragmented                    | Yes                                                      | High           |
| Continuing decline                     | Inferred and projected                                   | High           |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                                          |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and one location; continuing decline inferred and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of subpopulations, number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(ii)        | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline projected; and 100% of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                                                                                   |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                      |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                            | Scope | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Ongoing</i>       | Whole | Very rapid | High          | <i>Hibbertia circinata</i> is known to be highly susceptible to phytophthora (K McDougall pers.comm. 2020). Within available habitat, plants occur at the end of a ridge where phytophthora has not yet reached. Plants at the base of the cliff and growing amongst rocks may be somewhat protected. Phytophthora may also indirectly affect the species by causing dieback in other species and thus altering habitat structure and condition, and severely fragmenting the already restricted and isolated mountaintop habitat of the species. |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Unknown</i> | Whole | Unknown    | Unknown       | <i>Hibbertia circinata</i> is an obligate-seeder. Fire killed all mature individuals in 2019, and seedlings were observed in April 2020. Too-frequent fire may be a threat, but this is largely unknown (K McDougall pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Stochastic events<br><i>Future</i>           | Whole | Very rapid | Medium        | Given the restricted range and small population size, <i>H. circinata</i> is vulnerable to stochastic events.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

| Threat and timing               | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i> | Whole | Unknown  | Unknown       | Effects of climate change on mountain-top species are predicted to be severe including increased average temperatures, lower cool season rainfall and harsher climate weather (Grose <i>et al.</i> 2015), but likely effects on <i>H. circinata</i> are unknown. |

## Current management

- There is no recovery plan for this species. A Saving our Species strategy is under development, which will identify priority actions for recovery (New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020).
- This species occurs entirely within Mt Imlay National Park.
- Research has confirmed that the species is highly susceptible to phytophthora.
- Disease hygiene measures are in place to mitigate the risk of phytophthora infestation, including a hygiene station for bushwalkers.
- There is a small *ex situ* collection at the Canberra Botanic Gardens.
- A glasshouse phosphite trial will be undertaken in 2021.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known population.
- Detect more subpopulations through targeted surveys.
- Develop plan for translocation including commencement of propagation trials and identifying suitable recipient sites that are disease-free.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Priority       |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Introduced pathogens                       | Monitor population and site for signs of disease infestation.<br>Determine effective methods for controlling phytophthora dieback.                                                                                           | High<br>High   |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Determine viable propagation methods (seed/cuttings). Identify suitable habitat in secure, disease-free areas for translocation trials.                                                                                      | High           |
| Population surveys                         | Establish permanent monitoring transects to inform population trends in response to recovery actions and threats, particularly post-fire.<br>Targeted surveys in other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations. | High<br>Medium |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority             |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Introduced pathogens                       | Maintain and adapt disease hygiene measures at population site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | High                 |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Collect and store seed representing maximum range of genetic diversity to spread risk of extinction.<br>Undertake propagation trials preparation for translocation.<br>Translocate species to secure, disease-free locations (including areas within the existing population that are more protected).<br>Ensure translocated population contains maximum range of genetic diversity. | High<br>High<br>High |
| Extension and awareness                    | Raise awareness of species with relevant stakeholders in attempt to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Medium               |

## Experts consulted

Keith McDougall.

## References

- Australasian Virtual Herbarium (2020) '*Hibbertia circinata* specimen records'. (The Australasian Virtual Herbarium, Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria) Accessed at: [avh.chah.org.au](http://avh.chah.org.au) [Verified 20 October 2020]
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- New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (2020) 'Saving our Species profile: Connie's Guinea Flower' (NSW DPIE: Sydney). Available at: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=20348> [Verified 24 November 2020].



## *Kelleria bogongensis* C.E.Marks [THYMELEACEAE] Snow daphne, kelleria



*Kelleria bogongensis* in flower on the Bogong High Plains (image: Neville Walsh).

### Overview

*Kelleria bogongensis* is known from a single location on Victoria's Bogong High Plains. Substantial decline was recorded in a monitoring plot between 1993 and 2002, which may be associated with climatic drying. Wild horses occur within the vicinity of the population and *K. bogongensis* is vulnerable to grazing and trampling pressures. Ongoing monitoring is required to better understand population dynamics in relation to threats, as well as investigation into the feasibility of translocation.

### Conservation status

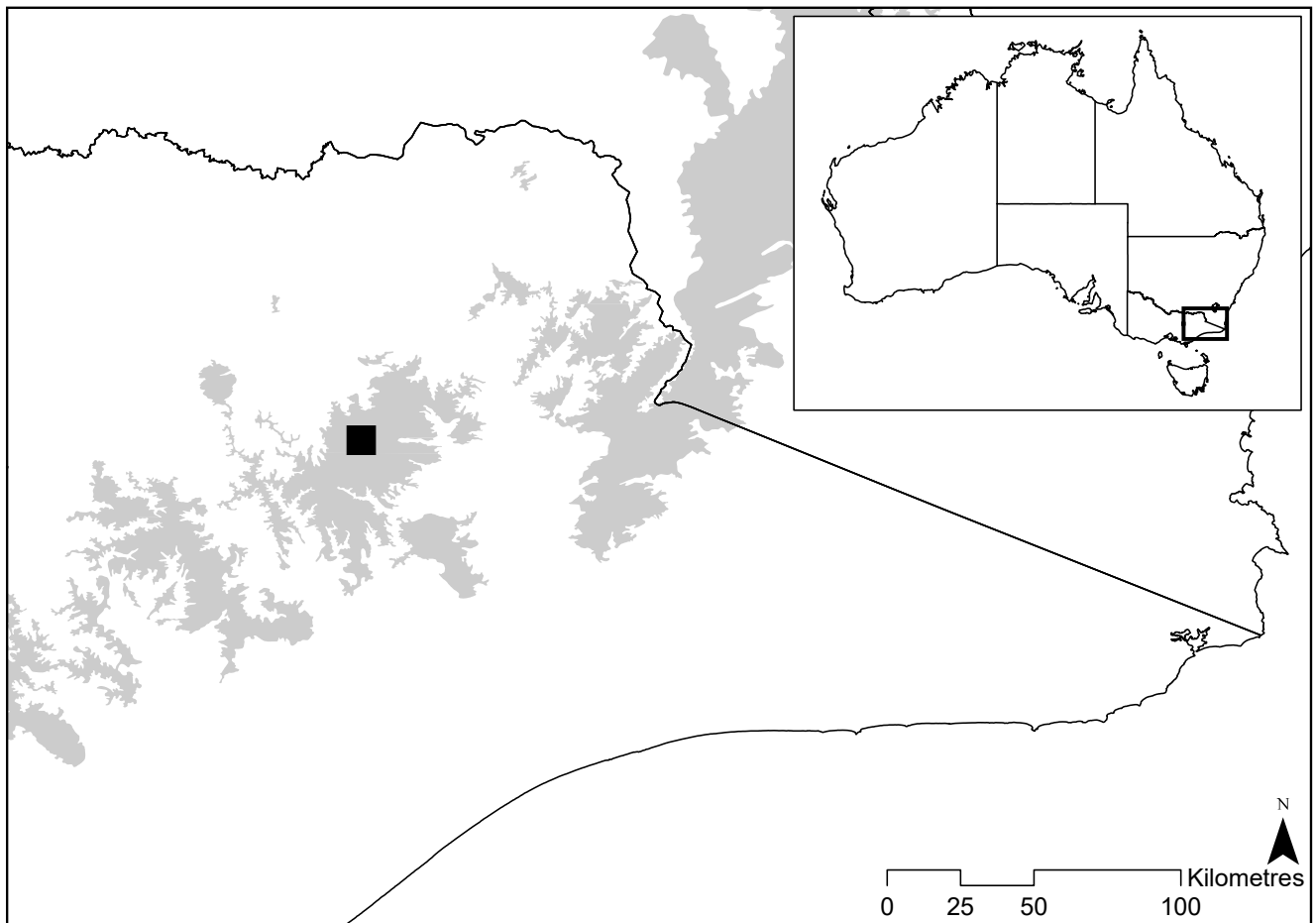
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Vulnerable                         |
| <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>                            | Threatened                         |
| Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria               | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Spreading, mat-forming shrub to 3 cm tall, but growing to at least 40 cm (and possibly 200 cm) in diameter (Carter and Walsh 2006). Stems are hairy and form adventitious roots along their length (Marks and Walsh 2004). Leaves are narrow, grey-green with 1-3 nerves on short shoots 1.9-2.5 mm long and 0.4-0.6 mm wide (Marks and Walsh 2004). Terminal inflorescence of 1-4 (usually 2) white-cream tubular flowers. Seeds are black and glossy, 1.9-2.2 mm long and 0.95-1.0 mm wide (Marks and Walsh 2004).

## Distribution

*Kelleria bogongensis* is known from one location on the Bogong High Plains near Mt Jim, in the Australian Alps bioregion of north-eastern Victoria (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012). The subpopulations are not considered severely fragmented as they occur in close proximity to each other in intact habitat where dispersal between subpopulations is possible (IUCN 2019).



Current distribution (black square) of *Kelleria bogongensis* near Mount Jim in the Australian Alps bioregion (shaded grey) of Victoria (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012).

## Population estimate and trends

*Kelleria bogongensis* is currently known from three subpopulations within 1 km<sup>2</sup>. Population size is difficult to estimate due to the mat-forming habit of the species. The species was first collected in 1980, with 'only one stand of <20 plants seen' (AVH 2020). A 1991 collection noted that 400-500 plants were scattered over ca. 1 ha (AVH 2020). In 2006, there were 19 discrete patches varying in size from 0.01 m<sup>2</sup> to 700 m<sup>2</sup> within 1 km<sup>2</sup>, and population estimates ranged from 400 to 2000 plants (Carter and Walsh 2006). In 2009, 1700 individuals were estimated to occur in 19 patches (Department of Sustainability and Environment 2009). In 2014, the population consisted of 18 patches varying in size from 0.1 m<sup>2</sup> to 5 m<sup>2</sup> (Marks and Walsh 2014).

Monitoring data from a 10 m<sup>2</sup> plot shows the species' extent in area occupied between 1993 and 2002 (Marks and Walsh 2014). No monitoring has occurred since 2002, but declines are suspected due to dry years and increased horse numbers (N Walsh pers.comm. 2020). Here the total population size is conservatively estimated as <500 plants. Targeted surveys have been conducted in similar habitat in the area, which is relatively rare in terms of hydrology and geology (N Walsh pers.comm. 2020), and it is unlikely that additional sub populations exist.

## Habitat and ecology

*Kelleria bogongensis* occurs in shallow organic loams overlying basalt on flat to sloping topography at ~1800 m above sea level (AVH 2020). It typically occurs on the edges of seasonally inundated pools amongst alpine grassland dominated by *Poa costiniana* (Carter and Walsh 2006). Small patches (0.1-0.5 m<sup>2</sup>) comprising multiple individuals form typically in association with *Argyrotegium nitidulum* (Marks and Walsh 2014). Plants tend to occur in slight depressions, and it is suspected that moist sites are important for plant survival (Carter and Walsh 2006). Flowering occurs from November to February and fruit develop from December through to March (Carter and Walsh 2006). Generation length is unknown.

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                  | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4km <sup>2</sup> (1 km <sup>2</sup> )     | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.1 km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | <500                                      | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (introduced vertebrate pests)           | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                    | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 3                                         | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Stable                                    | High        |
| Generation length             | Unknown                                   | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                            | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | No                                        | Medium      |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                    | Medium      |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion  | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A               | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                          |
| B1+2ab(i-iii,v) | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; 1 location; continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)          | EN: <2500 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <250 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                       |
| D1+2            | VU: <1000 mature individuals; AOO <20 km <sup>2</sup> ; <5 locations and plausible future threat.                                                                                                 |
| E               | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                      |

### Threats

| Threat and timing                             | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grazing (domestic stock)<br><i>Suspended</i>  | Whole | Slow     | Medium        | <i>Kelleria bogongensis</i> is vulnerable to trampling by cattle, which were permitted to graze in Alpine National Park until 2003. Cattle grazing has now been removed from the park, although could recommence in the future.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Introduced vertebrate pests<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole | Rapid    | High          | There is a population of feral horses within the vicinity of this species. The species occurs in one location as feral horses are known to trample and browse this species at all sites and management occurs at the land tenure scale. Feral horse numbers have markedly increased in the Mt Jim area in recent years, although they are due to be removed following the findings of a 2020 court case (N Walsh pers.comm. 2020). |

| Threat and timing                  | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Human activities<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Majority | Slow     | Medium        | This species is vulnerable to trampling by bushwalkers as some plants grow directly on a walking track.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>    | Whole    | Rapid    | Medium        | Decline was observed during a period of prolonged drought. Climate change may increase the frequency and severity of dry periods and fires, causing further population declines in the future (Grose <i>et al.</i> 2015). The population did not burn in the extensive wildfires of 2003 or 2020 (Carter and Walsh 2006; N Walsh pers.comm. 2020), suggesting that fire is not a major threat. |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (Carter and Walsh 2006; DSE 2009; Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2016).
- All subpopulations occur within Alpine National Park that is managed for conservation.
- Detailed monitoring was undertaken between 1993 and 2002 (N Walsh pers.comm. 2020).
- Plants have been grown from cuttings at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, and research into seed germination is required (N Walsh pers.comm. 2020).

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known population.
- Detect more subpopulations through targeted surveys.
- Protect habitat of known population from feral horse grazing.
- Establish *ex situ* subpopulations to reduce extinction risk.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                           | Priority       |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including population dynamics, fire ecology, seed germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High           |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Undertake research to inform translocations in the future. Seed germination requirements, habitat suitability and factors that ensure successful establishment of translocated plants are important.       | High           |
| Population surveys                         | Monitor population to determine response to management activities and ongoing threats.<br>Conduct surveys in potential habitat to detect unrecorded populations.                                           | High<br>Medium |



## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                 | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Introduced vertebrate pests                | Manage feral horse populations through culling and/or exclusion fencing to reduce immediate impacts on <i>K. bogongensis</i> .                   | High     |
| Grazing                                    | Continue to exclude domestic stock from the park to prevent trampling and habitat degradation.                                                   | High     |
| Extension and awareness                    | Raise awareness of the species and impacts of feral horses to gain wider public support for feral horse culling in the national park.            | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Establish an <i>ex situ</i> subpopulation of the species representing maximum genetic diversity in preparation for translocations in the future. | High     |

## Experts consulted

Neville Walsh.

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## *Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range (P.R.Sharpe+ 4877) [MYRTACEAE] Main Range lenwebbia



*Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range foliage (left; image: Gavin Phillips) and severe canopy dieback at Lizard Point in Main Range National Park (right; image: Julian Radford-Smith).

### Overview

*Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range is an undescribed species restricted to small patches of high altitude cloud forest. Since the invasion of myrtle rust *Austropuccinia psidii* in 2010 a widespread and rapid decline has been observed. Numerous dead individuals have been found in recent surveys and where the species persists, new growth is often severely infected. Recovery options are currently focussed on survey, mapping and germplasm capture at all known sites. The aim of these efforts is to establish a genetically representative collection for *ex situ* management and potential future reintroductions.

### Conservation status

|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Not listed                         |
| <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> (Qld)                            | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (NSW)                      | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

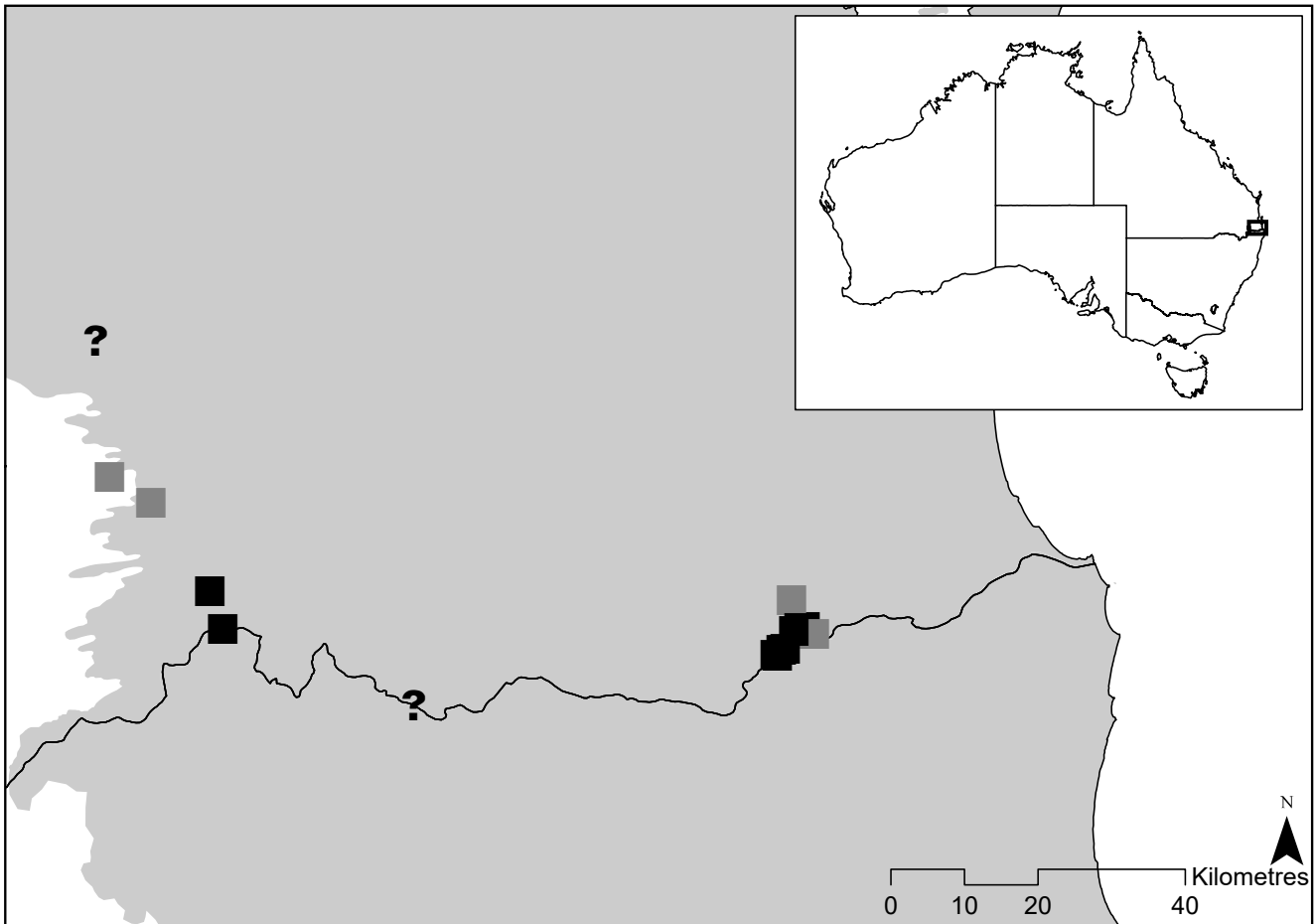
### Brief description

Small tree to 5 m with densely hairy branchlets (Wilson 2018). Leaves are elliptical to obovate, 3-5 cm long and 1-2.5 cm wide with sparse hairs above and a hairy midvein below. Solitary flowers form in the leaf axils and fruits are black when mature (Wilson 2018). The species is distinguished from *L. prominens* by the hairy mid-vein and less prominent lateral veins on the underside of the leaf (Harden *et al.* 2015).

### Distribution

*Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range is known from several disjunct sites in Main Range National Park in Queensland, and along both sides of the Queensland-New South Wales border in the South East Queensland bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment 2012; Saving Our Species unpublished data). Subpopulations are small and occur in isolated patches of specific habitat. In NSW, subpopulations are separated by distances ranging from ca. 1 km to 40 km, generally exceeding the normal foraging range of the presumed insect pollinators, but not necessarily of the seed-dispersing birds when plants were still producing fruit (B Makinson pers. comm. 2020). Seedling establishment and survival is further hindered by the introduction of myrtle rust, therefore the species is considered severely fragmented (IUCN 2019).





Current distribution of *Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range includes sites where the species persists but is declining rapidly due to dieback (black squares), is presumed extinct (grey squares), or status unknown (?). *Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range occurs in the South Eastern Queensland bioregion (shaded grey) of Queensland and New South Wales (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; SOS unpublished data).

## Population estimate and trends

*Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range was first collected from Mount Mistake in 1948 (AVH 2020). Subsequent collections were made from various mountain peaks until 1999, when the species was known from 15 sites (AVH 2020). Currently, *L. sp.* Main Range persists at 11 of these sites, is presumed extinct from four, and remains unsurveyed at Mt Mistake (SOS unpublished data; Fensham *et al.* 2020; T Collingwood pers.comm. 2020; AVH 2020). Even where species counts have been stable between years, the canopy cover is deteriorating rapidly due to myrtle rust infection (SOS, unpublished data) and a population reduction of >90% is projected in the next 100 years. The number of 'mature individuals' (IUCN 2019) is inferred to be <50 due to reproductive suppression by myrtle rust. *Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range reproduces sexually, and myrtle rust has caused a reduction in the abundance and density of parent plants and thus outcrossing probability, reduced flowering rates due to shoot death and flower bud infection, and reduced seed set due to plant stress and direct infection of fruits (B Makinson pers.comm. 2020).

The population size of *L. sp.* Main Range prior to the introduction of myrtle rust is not well-documented. The species was recorded as 'locally common' at Jirramun (Wilson's Peak) in 1994 (Queensland Herbarium 2020). Twenty trees were recorded below Jirramun (Wilson's Peak) in 1919, 12 were dead by 2020, and another seven of 16 newly recorded trees were also dead (SOS unpublished data). While some of these deaths can be attributed to extreme drought conditions that affected the species habitat, many trees were in severe decline prior to the drought, with an average canopy cover of 28% (SOS unpublished data). The average canopy cover by 2020 was only 7% (J Mallee pers.comm. 2020). By contrast, collection records (AVH 2020) indicate the species was 'rare' at Garagoomba Lookout (1986), Joahlah Lookout (1994) and Mt Wagawn (1994). The species is probably inherently rare across its distribution given its habitat is naturally restricted in the landscape (L Weber, J Mallee pers.comm. 2019).

Targeted surveys have been undertaken throughout the known and potential habitat of *L. sp.* Main Range in both Queensland and New South Wales from 2016-2020. Despite intensive searching, the species has not been relocated at Niamboyoo (Mt Cordeaux) or Mt Wagawn. The species was not relocated at Barguggan/Binkinjoora (Spicers Peak) during surveys in 2020 (T Collingwood pers.obs. 2020). Mt Mistake requires re-survey but is extremely remote, and a fire in 2019 has made resurvey of the single individual at Jalgumbun (Mt Lindesay) unsafe (L Weber, J Mallee pers. comm. 2020). Up to 50 mature individuals with severe dieback persist along an exposed ridgeline to Lizard Point (J Radford-Smith, T Collingwood unpublished data).

*Lenwebbia sp.* Main Range monitoring data, 1948-2020 (SOS unpublished data; Fensham *et al.* 2020; T Collingwood pers.comm. 2020; AVH 2020).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                                                           | Number of mature individuals (juveniles) (dead)                                                         | Trend            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Niamboyoo (Mt Cordeaux) (Main Range National Park)                             | 1989: present<br>2019: 0<br>2020: 0                                                                     | Presumed extinct |
| 2 Mt Mistake (Main Range National Park)                                          | 1948: present<br>2020: unknown                                                                          | Unknown          |
| 3 Bunkoo (Mt Roberts) to Lizard Point (Main Range National Park)                 | 1986: present<br>1994: present<br>2020: <50                                                             | Decreasing       |
| 4 Barguggan/Binkinjoora (Spicers Peak) (Main Range National Park)                | 1995: present<br>2020: 0                                                                                | Presumed extinct |
| 5 Jirramun (Wilson's Peak) (Koorelah National Park and Main Range National Park) | 1994: locally common<br>2016: 23<br>2019: 20<br>2020: 17 [12 of 2019 census] + [7 of 16 newly recorded] | Decreasing       |
| 6 Dacelo, Woonoongoora (Lamington National Park)                                 | 2019: 6 (several)<br>2020: 4                                                                            | Decreasing       |
| 7 Joalah Lookout, Woonoongoora (Lamington National Park)                         | 1994: rare<br>2013: 1<br>2016: 1<br>2019: 0<br>2020: 0                                                  | Presumed extinct |
| 8 Jalgumbun (Mt Lindesay) (Border Ranges National Park)                          | 2019: 1 [1]<br>2020: ? (possibly burnt)<br>2019: 5 (1 with immature fruit)<br>2020: 4                   | Decreasing       |
| 9 Mt Merino (Limpinwood Nature Reserve)                                          | 2019: 5 (1 with immature fruit)<br>2020: 4                                                              | Decreasing       |
| 10 Mt Wagawn/ Garragoolba Lookout (Limpinwood Nature Reserve)                    | 1986: rare<br>1994: rare<br>2019: 0                                                                     | Presumed extinct |
| 11 Mt Worendo (Limpinwood Nature Reserve)                                        | 2019: 3<br>2020: 3                                                                                      | Decreasing       |
| 12 Echo Point/gorge (Limpinwood Nature Reserve)                                  | 2019: 9 (3)<br>2020: 9                                                                                  | Decreasing       |
| 13 Mt Wupawn (Limpinwood Nature Reserve)                                         | 2019: 10<br>2020: 10                                                                                    | Decreasing       |
| 14 Mt Wunungara (Limpinwood Nature Reserve)                                      | 2019: 0 (1)<br>2020: 0 (1)                                                                              | Decreasing       |
| 15 Mt Cominan (Limpinwood Nature Reserve)                                        | 2019: 0 (1)                                                                                             | Decreasing       |

## Habitat and ecology

*Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range is restricted to volcanic escarpments in high altitude areas at 900-1200 m above sea level (Weber and Box 2016). It grows on exposed, steep, rocky areas in skeletal clay-loam soils over volcanics (basalt or rhyolite) amongst mossy cloud rainforest thickets and complex notophyll vine forest (Weber and Box 2016). Associated species include *Nothofagus moorei*, *Archirhodomertus beckleri*, *Syzygium smithii*, *Cassinia compacta*, *Cryptocarya foveolata*, *Diospyros pentamera*, *Leptospermum petersonii*, *Leucopogon spathaceus*, *Leucopogon* sp. Lamington, *Olearia elliptica*, *Prostanthera ovalifolia*, *Tristaniopsis collina*, *Uromyrtus lamingtonensis* and *Xanthorrhoea latifolia* (Queensland Herbarium 2020). Historically, fruit have been collected in August, September and February (QH 2020).

The species is long-lived and slow-growing; cultivated specimens take >20 years to reach reproductive maturity, and life span estimates are up to 100 years (G Phillips pers.comm. 2019). The generation length is therefore estimated as >40 years. The species is a known host to myrtle rust, which causes severe dieback in new shoots and infects flowers, fruit and damages seed viability.

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                 | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 2049 km <sup>2</sup>     | Low         |
| Trend                         | Decreasing               | High        |
| Area of occupancy             | 44 km <sup>2</sup>       | Low         |
| Trend                         | Decreasing               | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | <50                      | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing               | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (introduced pathogens) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing               | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 11                       | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing               | High        |
| Generation length             | >40 years                | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | No                       | High        |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                      | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and estimated   | High        |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A4ce           | CR: >80% reduction observed (2009-2020) and estimated (+100 years); based on decline in AOO, EOO, habitat quality; and effects of introduced pathogens.                                                                                                             |
| B1ab(i-v)      | EN: EOO <5000 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <500 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; continuing decline observed and estimated in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and estimated; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                                                           |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                     | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Ongoing</i>                | Whole    | Very rapid | High          | Myrtle rust causes dieback of young shoots and reproductive organs in <i>L. sp.</i> Main Range and occurs throughout the species' distribution (Makinson 2018). One fruit has been collected since myrtle rust invasion. More than 80% of individuals died in Limpinwood NR and Woonoongoora (Lamington NP) from 2016-2018, and >50% of the individuals at Jirramun (Wilsons Peak) have died in the past 4 years (22 of 39; SOS unpublished data). Even where species counts have been stable between years, canopy cover is deteriorating rapidly (SOS unpublished data). As all subpopulations are infected with no viable <i>in situ</i> management options, the species occurs at one location.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Drought/wildfire/<br>climate change<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Rapid      | Medium        | More than 10 individuals died at Jirramun (Wilsons Peak) in 2019-2020 due to drought-induced water stress. Those with re-shooting foliage were heavily infected with myrtle rust (L Weber, J Mallee pers. comm. 2020). At some sites in Main Range NP, the species occurs in montane heath that is vulnerable to wildfire under dry conditions (L Weber pers. comm. 2020). Fire may have killed the individual at Jalgumbun (Mt Lindesay) in 2019, although the substrate is too unstable for re-survey (L Weber, J Mallee pers. comm. 2020). Wildfire killed many trees (including rainforest Myrtaceae) within the habitat of <i>L. sp.</i> Main Range at Barguggan/Binkinjoora (Spicers Peak) in 2019, although specific impacts on <i>L. sp.</i> Main Range are unknown. Drought duration and extreme fire weather are predicted to increase under climate change (Dowdy <i>et al.</i> 2015; Tanner-McAllister <i>et al.</i> 2018; L Weber, unpublished data). Moreover, the capacity for highly restricted mountaintop species to survive under climate change is tenuous (Cartwright 2019). |
| Accidental destruction<br><i>Ongoing</i>              | Minority | Slow       | Low           | Seedlings on the trackside between Mt Merino and Mt Wanungara are prone to trampling by hikers, although many of these may be hybrids with <i>L. prominens</i> (G Phillips pers. comm. 2019). An illegally lit campfire at Echo Point escaped and burnt 1.5 ha of vegetation, narrowly avoiding the individuals of <i>L. sp.</i> Main Range (L Weber pers. comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Hybridisation<br><i>Ongoing</i>                       | Minority | Slow       | Low           | <i>Lenwebbia sp.</i> Main Range readily hybridises with <i>L. prominens</i> . Although a natural process, if <i>L. sp.</i> Main Range receives respite from myrtle rust and can reproduce, a high proportion of viable seed is likely to be of hybrid origin due to the relative abundance of <i>L. prominens</i> , which is less susceptible to myrtle rust dieback. The only seedling germinated from wild-sourced fruit since myrtle rust arrived has been a hybrid (L Weber, G Phillips pers. comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## Current management

- A National Action Plan (Makinson *et al.* 2020) has been developed through extensive consultation and provides a national expert consensus for the conservation of species affected by myrtle rust. *Lenwebbia* sp. Main Range is listed as an 'emergency' priority species in the NAP (Makinson *et al.* 2020).
- Current conservation actions under the NSW Saving our Species program (New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020) include surveys of known and potential habitat to determine distribution, documenting population size and demographics (including marking individual trees), documenting reproduction/recruitment, and recording extent and severity of myrtle rust infection (J Mallee pers.comm. 2020). Cuttings are being collected from the maximum number of living individuals for *ex situ* conservation at the Australian Botanic Gardens Mount Annan (J Mallee pers.comm. 2020).
- The species occurs exclusively in conservation reserves/national park.
- Limited targeted surveys have been undertaken in NSW and Qld to assess and monitor the status of subpopulations. Given the species occupies remote habitat, a complete census has never been possible for safety and access reasons (B Makinson pers.comm. 2020).

## Conservation objectives

- Establish awareness, funding and leadership for a long-term and coordinated response to the impact of myrtle rust on *L.* sp. Main Range.
- Identify feasible options for maintaining wild subpopulations of *L.* sp. Main Range.
- Establish and maintain a viable *ex situ* collection of *L.* sp. Main Range as an ongoing conservation resource.
- Better understand the ecology of myrtle rust as it relates to *L.* sp. Main Range and the ecosystems within which it occurs.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Taxonomy                                   | Formally describe the taxon to consolidate knowledge of the species.                                                                                                                                                         | High     |
| Population surveys                         | Undertake field surveys as recommend by the NAP; document myrtle rust incidence, impact, resistance among plants, demographic trends and related ecological data.                                                            | High     |
|                                            | Undertake rapid field surveys (especially Mt Mistake and Jalgumbun (Mt Lindesay)) and also establish permanent monitoring plots to capture time-series trends and document decline rates.                                    | High     |
|                                            | Monitor subpopulations in response to threat abatement actions.                                                                                                                                                              | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Undertake research to determine the most effective methods of <i>ex situ</i> germplasm capture and storage (seed, tissue culture, vegetative).                                                                               | High     |
|                                            | Collate a national inventory of cultivated specimens (botanic gardens, private collections) that can be protected by fungicide, diversified by further sampling and used for seed production.                                | High     |
|                                            | Use <i>ex situ</i> conservation collection to undertake research (within the NAP framework where possible), including trials for more rust-tolerant genotypes that may be used as a basis for reintroduction translocations. | High     |
| Introduced pathogens                       | Undertake research into biocontrol methods for myrtle rust.                                                                                                                                                                  | High     |
|                                            | Undertake research to identify possible management actions to maintain the wild population, such as selective fungicide application.                                                                                         | High     |
| Life history, ecology and research         | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species to guide conservation actions.                                                                                                           | High     |
|                                            | Investigate indirect impacts of myrtle rust on habitat of the species, including ecological interactions with other threatening processes such as fire, drought, invasive weeds and climate change.                          | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                       | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority             |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Population surveys                          | Standardise population monitoring data methods and coordinate data storage at a national scale.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | High                 |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/ translocations | Urgently secure germplasm for <i>ex situ</i> conservation efforts. Maintain and expand secure (threat-managed) and genetically representative <i>ex situ</i> collections for seed collection and to support ongoing research efforts, including identification of genotypes less-susceptible to myrtle rust for future reintroduction translocations. | High<br>High         |
| Extension and awareness                     | Seek Indigenous stakeholder input and participation in conservation actions.<br><br>Raise awareness of the impact of myrtle rust on the species with local landholders and other stakeholders to monitor and protect the species.                                                                                                                     | High<br><br>High     |
| Accidental destruction                      | Protect individuals that are vulnerable to trampling at high visitation sites with appropriate fencing.<br><br>Maintain and enforce fire bans at campsites near <i>L. sp.</i> Main Range in high-risk weather.                                                                                                                                        | Medium<br><br>Medium |
| Life history, ecology and research          | Assemble fragmented botanical and ecological knowledge of the species (including seedling photographs to guide field impact surveys) in a repository to expedite research, conservation planning and rapid surveys.                                                                                                                                   | Medium               |

## Experts consulted

Bob Makinson, Justin Mallee, Gavin Phillips, Lui Weber, Teghan Collingwood, Julian Radford-Smith and Rod Fensham.

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## *Petrophile latericola* Keighery [PROTEACEAE]

Laterite petrophile, ironstone petrophile, ironstone pixie mop



*Petrophile latericola* inflorescence (left) and seeds (right; images: Andrew Crawford).

### Overview

*Petrophile latericola* was described in 2010 and is declining despite implementation of recovery actions. The species occurs on an extremely restricted soil type that has been heavily cleared for agriculture, and is suspected to be susceptible to the introduced root-rot fungus phytophthora *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. No young plants have been observed, and surviving plants in 2020 were in poor condition following extremely dry conditions. Recovery actions including translocations are ongoing.

### Conservation status

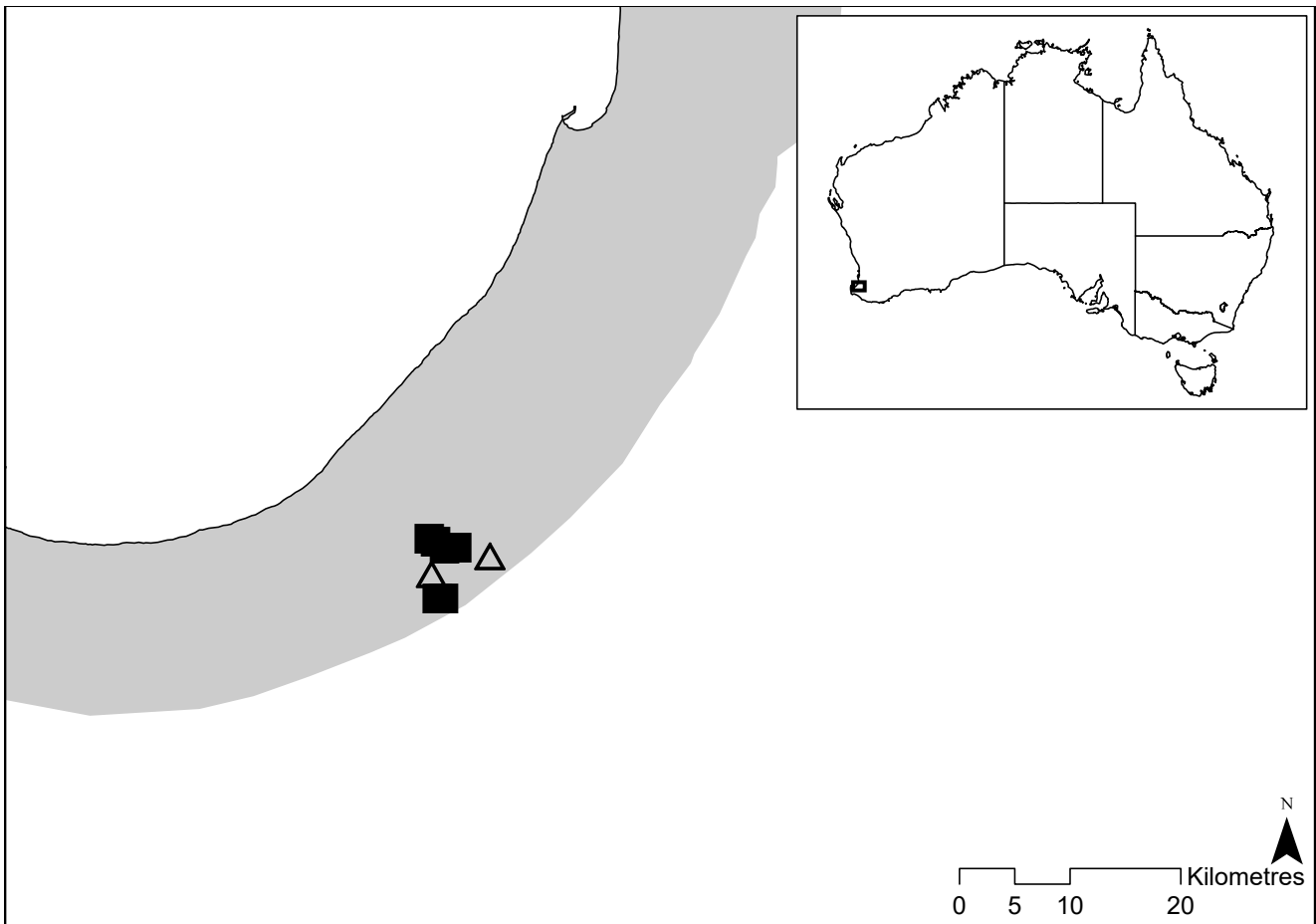
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Upright, single-stemmed shrub with few branches to 1.5 m tall and 40 cm wide (Keighery 2010). Leaves are rigid, linear and have a circular cross-section with a sharp tip, 15-50 mm long. The terminal inflorescences have brown bracts at the base and reach 20 mm long, comprising many hairy, bright-yellow flowers with pollen presenters 3-5 mm long (Keighery 2010). The species is part of the *P. brevifolia* complex, which occurs widely in southern Western Australia. *Petrophile latericola* differs from co-occurring *Petrophile* spp. by lacking a lignotuber, having longer spreading leaves, more floriferous inflorescences and bright yellow flowers (Keighery 2010; Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts 2008).

### Distribution

*Petrophile latericola* is known from a very restricted range at the base of the Whicher Scarp near Busselton within the Swan Coastal Plain bioregion of south-western Western Australia (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2020).



Current distribution (black squares) of *Petrophile latericola* including translocated subpopulations (hollow triangles) in the Swan Coastal Plain bioregion (shaded grey) of Western Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DBCA 2020; Silcock *et al.* 2019). The translocated subpopulations are not yet self-sustaining.

## Population estimate and trends

*Petrophile latericola* is currently known from 171 mature individuals in five naturally occurring subpopulations. It was first collected in 1983 at Subpopulation 2, with subsequent collections from 1989 to 1996 indicating the species was 'fairly common' at this site (AVH 2020; Phillimore *et al.* 2001). In 2001, there were about 200 plants known from three subpopulations (Phillimore *et al.* 2001). Two additional populations containing single plants were located in 2006, and in 2013 the species was known from five subpopulations with 108 mature individuals, most occurring in one subpopulation (DBCA 2020). Two translocated subpopulations were established in 2001 and have been maintained with subsequent plantings in the absence of recruitment (Silcock *et al.* 2019).

Time-series monitoring from 1992 indicates an overall population decline, with future declines projected in the largest subpopulation due to lack of recruitment and poor habitat condition. Targeted surveys have been conducted across the species' range and additional subpopulations are unlikely to exist (A Webb pers.comm. 2020).

*Petrophile latericola* monitoring data, 1991-2020 (DBCA 2020; A Webb pers.comm. 2020).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                                | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                              | Trend                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 ESE Busselton (rail reserve/<br>Shire road reserve) | 1991: 1<br>1992: 1<br>1993: 0<br>1996: 0<br>2000: 2<br>2001: 2<br>2006: 1 (2)<br>2013: 3                              | Stable                  |
| 2 ESE Busselton (state forest)                        | 1992: 287<br>1996: >200<br>2000: >200<br>2002: 310<br>2006: >100<br>2020: 162                                         | Decreasing              |
| 3 ESE Busselton (rail reserve)                        | 1991: 1<br>1992: 0<br>1996: 3<br>1997: 3<br>1999: 4<br>2000: 6<br>2001: 3<br>2002: 3<br>2004: 1<br>2013: 0<br>2017: 2 | Decreasing              |
| 4 ESE Busselton (rail reserve)                        | 2006: 1<br>2012: 4                                                                                                    | Unknown                 |
| 5 ESE Busselton (Crown<br>Reserve)                    | 2006: 1<br>2012: 1<br>2013: 1<br>2014: 0                                                                              | Decreasing              |
| 4 (T*) (nature reserve)                               | 2001: 123T<br>2002: 26T<br>2010: 56T<br>2019: 112T (22T)                                                              | Not yet self-sustaining |
| 6 (T*) (nature reserve)                               | 2001: 54T<br>2002: 22T<br>2010: 48T<br>2019: 34T                                                                      | Not yet self-sustaining |

Translocated individuals/subpopulation (T). \*Plant counts do not reflect subpopulation trend as multiple plantings have occurred.

## Habitat and ecology

*Petrophile latericola* occurs on winter-wet flats amongst heath or *Banksia squarrosa* subsp. *argillacea* shrubland in brown to red sandy clays over ironstone or laterite, known as the Abba Wet Ironstone Flats (Keighery 2010).

Associated species include *Viminaria juncea*, *Banksia grandis*, *Chamelaucium roycei*, *Grevillea elongata*, *Xanthorrhoea preissii*, *Pericalymma ellipticum*, *Loxocarya magna* and *Regalia ciliata* (Keighery 2010).

Flowering occurs between October and November (Keighery 2010). *Petrophile latericola* is a serotinous obligate-seeder, which lacks a lignotuber and stores seed in its canopy (Keighery 2010). Fire kills adult plants and triggers release and germination of seed. The length of time seed remains viable in the canopy is not yet known. Where fire is absent, habitat becomes denser and mature individuals senesce in the absence of recruitment (Phillimore et al. 2001). It is unknown whether there is also a persistent soil seedbank and given that the species is known to be serotinous, extreme fluctuations are considered probable (IUCN 2019). Plants can flower the second spring after a fire (Keighery 2010), but lifespan and generation length are unknown.

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                    | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 16 km <sup>2</sup>                          | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 16 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.05 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 171                                         | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 5 (lack of recruitment)                     | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 5                                           | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| Generation length             | Unknown                                     | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Probable                                    | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                         | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                      | High        |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion   | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A                | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                                                         |
| B1ab(iii-v)c(iv) | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; continuing decline observed and projected in area/ extent and quality of habitat, number of subpopulations, number of mature individuals; and extreme fluctuations in number of mature individuals probable. |
| C2a(ii)b         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; 90-100% (92.6%) of mature individuals in one subpopulation; and extreme fluctuations in number of mature individuals probable.                                                           |
| D                | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| E                | DD: insufficient data available to reliably quantify extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                                              | Scope    | Severity      | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                                                    | n/a      | n/a           | n/a           | Land clearing for agriculture has resulted in the decline and fragmentation of available habitat for the species. The species is considered severely fragmented as all subpopulations are very small, and isolated by cleared land.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Suspended</i>                                 | Majority | Rapid         | Medium        | Three subpopulations occur on road/railway reserves and are vulnerable to firebreak maintenance, chemical spraying, drainage channel construction, mowing and proliferation of invasive weeds post-disturbance. Individuals have been lost to these activities in the past, but all subpopulations are now protected by physical barriers and restricted access.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Lack of recruitment/<br>inappropriate<br>disturbance regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Very<br>Rapid | High          | Limited recruitment has been observed at all subpopulations possibly due to a lack of fire. Further information on appropriate disturbance regimes is required, but the species is known to decline over the long-term in the absence of fire. The species is serotinous (holds a portion of its seed in the canopy), but the relative importance and longevity of the soil-seedbank is unknown. Conversely, too-frequent fire could deplete the seedbank while killing mature individuals. As fire can be managed at the subpopulation scale, the species occurs at five locations. |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                         | Whole    | Rapid         | High          | Field observations indicate the species is susceptible to <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> dieback, which is present at multiple subpopulations. Test results conducted on dead <i>P. latericola</i> remain inconclusive (A Webb pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                               | Whole    | Slow          | Medium        | Invasive weeds are present in all subpopulations and can increase competition and alter fuel loads and thus fire regimes, which may have substantial impacts on recruitment and population abundance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Grazing (feral and<br>native)<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                | Majority | Slow          | Medium        | Rabbits may limit survivorship of juveniles especially after fire and germination. Macropod grazing is having an impact on mature plants. Subpopulations 2, 4T and 6T have been fenced to exclude grazing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Changed hydrology/<br>climate change<br><i>Future</i>                          | Whole    | Unknown       | Unknown       | Adjacent mining developments and reduced rainfall under projected climate change may lower the water-table with unknown effects on <i>P. latericola</i> (B Lullfitz pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## Current management

- Implementation of recovery actions is ongoing.
- One subpopulation is protected in a nature reserve and one in state forest.
- Subpopulations 2, 4T and 6T have been fenced to exclude grazing.
- Two translocations have been undertaken in secure tenure with subsequent augmentations. These have been partially successful, however the species is difficult to grow and there has been no recruitment and these are not yet considered self-sustaining.
- Approximately 121 909 fruits were collected between 1994 and 2020 from Subpopulations 1, 2, 4 and 5 and are stored at the Western Australian Seed Centre. These are estimated to contain >7415 germinable seeds.



- The species forms part of the living collection at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, with 56 plants from 9 clones (28 plants in the Conservation Garden and 28 in the nursery collection). This number is expected to fluctuate as the plants are difficult to maintain in cultivation.
- Phosphite has been used to manage phytophthora dieback since the late 1990s.
- In 2009, two dead plants were tested for phytophthora infection from Subpopulations 2 and 6; both results were negative despite visible phytophthora fronts in the area. Other species known to be susceptible also returned negative results, raising concerns aerial phosphite spraying may have generated false negative results. Further research is required to determine whether phosphite spraying can mask the presence of phytophthora and the mechanisms for this (A Webb pers.comm. 2020).
- All subpopulations are protected from human disturbance by physical barriers and restricted access.
- The species is associated with the 'Shrubland on the Southern Swan Coastal Plain Ironstones' EPBC Act-listed threatened ecological community.

## Conservation objectives

- Protect habitat of known subpopulations in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Monitor known subpopulations and increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild.
- Expand and maintain *ex situ* collection to represent maximum genetic diversity.

## Information required

| Theme                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Priority     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Population surveys         | Undertake targeted surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations, particularly after fire events.<br>Monitor population to determine trends in response to threats and management actions.                         | High<br>High |
| Life history and ecology   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, seed storage and longevity, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High         |
| Inappropriate fire regimes | Determine a suitable fire regime for the species to increase the number of mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                    | High         |
| Introduced pathogens       | Conduct further sampling to assess susceptibility of species to phytophthora. Determine effective management strategies if required.                                                                                                                              | High         |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Priority       |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Implement appropriate fire regime to increase the number of mature individuals in the long-term.                                                                                                                                                                                             | High           |
| Grazing                                    | Exclude grazers; kangaroos from mature plants and rabbits from juvenile plants, particularly after fire.                                                                                                                                                                                     | High           |
| Introduced pathogens                       | Continue to implement hygiene measures and phosphite application to reduce impact of phytophthora.                                                                                                                                                                                           | High           |
| Extension and awareness                    | Raise awareness with appropriate conservation groups and other stakeholders to protect the species and in an attempt to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                                    | High           |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Continue translocation program of species to secure tenure.<br>Maintain and expand <i>ex situ</i> seed collections to represent maximum range of genetic diversity. Upgrade to high priority if recruitment events occur at the small populations (once plants reach reproductive maturity). | High<br>Medium |

## Experts consulted

Andrew Webb, Ben Lullfitz, Natasha Moore, Andrew Crawford and Tanya Llorens.

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*Phebalium daviesii* Hook.f. [RUTACEAE]  
Davies' waxflower, St Helens waxflower



*Phebalium daviesii* foliage and flowers (image: Rob Wiltshire).

## Overview

*Phebalium daviesii* is currently known from a single population comprising fewer than 50 plants along the George River in north-eastern Tasmania. The population occurs on private land under a conservation covenant but is vulnerable to flooding, native and domestic herbivores and weed invasion. Disturbance and germination requirements are poorly understood and recruitment is limited. Translocations have been undertaken with limited success and the persistence of the species remains precarious and dependent on landholder liaison, grazing exclusion, weed control and further translocation.

## Conservation status

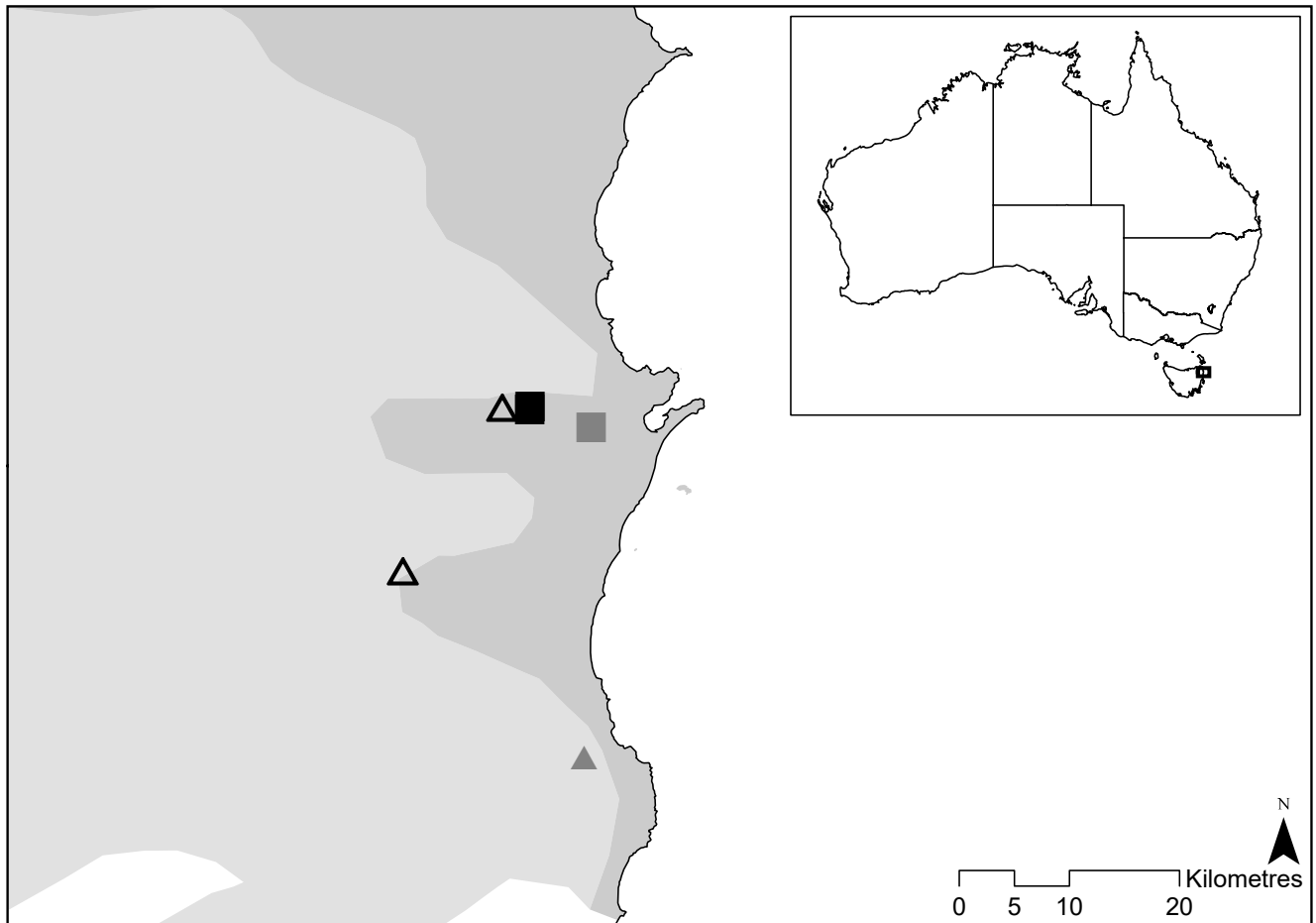
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i>                        | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

## Brief description

Slender shrub to 3 m with smooth or minutely glandular leaves (Wilson 2013; Threatened Species Section 2011). Leaves petiolate and narrow, the mid-vein is deeply impressed, with a bi-lobed apex, 20-30 mm long. The lower leaf surface is silvery and covered in scales, and the upper surface is dark green, with a row of glands along margins. Inflorescence of 5-8 flowers occurring at the end of branchlets, flowers 5-lobed with brown glands on the back of petals. Stamens protrude from flowers and are approximately twice as long as petals (TSS 2011). *Phebalium daviesii* is the only member of this genus in Tasmania (TSS 2011).

## Distribution

*Phebalium daviesii* is known only from the lower reaches of the George River near St Helens in the Furneaux bioregion of north-east Tasmania (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012). The species was historically known from Constable Creek and 'near St Helens Bay' (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020).



Current (black square) and historical (grey square) distribution of *Phebalium daviesii* in the Furneaux (shaded dark grey) and Ben Lomond (shaded light grey) bioregions of Tasmania (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012). Two translocations (including one augmentation) are extant but not self-sustaining (hollow triangles), while another was unsuccessful (grey triangle; Silcock *et al.* 2019).

## Population estimate and trends

*Phebalium daviesii* was first collected before 1860, with subsequent collections in 1876 and 1892 (AVH 2020). It was presumed extinct until five plants were found in 1990 (Wapstra *et al.* 2006). The species is currently known from 25 mature plants in one subpopulation spread over 40 m on the eastern bank of the George River. A second subpopulation some 450 m away on the western bank did not contain any naturally-occurring plants in 2019 (O Carter pers.comm. 2020). A single individual was located near the main subpopulation in Mt Pearson State Reserve in 2001, but subsequently died.

Translocations have been attempted at three sites, including augmentation of one naturally-occurring subpopulation (Silcock *et al.* 2019). Ten translocated plants persist at Scamander River, although the subpopulation continues to decline and is not self-sustaining, and four on the western bank of the George River.

Targeted surveys have been conducted across the range of the species and it is unlikely that additional subpopulations exist.

*Phebalium daviesii* monitoring data, 1990-2019 (DPIPWE 2020; O Carter pers.comm. 2020; Threatened Species Section 2011).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                                                    | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Trend            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 George River eastern bank (private property with conservation covenant) | 1993: 38<br>1997: 42<br>1999: 28<br>2001: 20<br>2002: 19<br>2004: 14<br>2007: 13 (30)<br>2008: 12 (40)<br>2010: 10 (48)<br>2011: 15 (26)<br>2014: 17 (37)<br>2016: 20 (24)<br>2017: 25 (19)                                                                                         | Fluctuating      |
| 2 George River western bank (private property with conservation covenant) | 1990: 5<br>1997: 5 + 134T<br>1998: 169T<br>1999: 2 + 118T<br>2000: 0 + 10T<br>2001: 2 + 98T<br>2002: 2 + 89T<br>2004: 2 + 42T<br>2007: 1 + 20T<br>2010: 1 + 21T<br>2011: 0 + 9T<br>2014: 0 (several) + 6 (52)T<br>2016: 0 (7) + 6 (16)T<br>2017: 0 (4) + 6 (2)T<br>2019: 0 + 2 (2)T | Decreasing       |
| 3 Mt Pearson (state reserve)                                              | 2001: 1<br>2004: 1<br>2007: 1<br>2010: 0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Presumed extinct |
| 4 (T) Scamander River (state forest)                                      | 1998: 262T<br>2000: 66T<br>2002: 140T<br>2004: 49T<br>2010: 47T<br>2017: 10T<br>2019: 10T                                                                                                                                                                                           | Decreasing       |
| 5 (T) Banticks Creek and Golden Fleece Rivulet (state reserve)            | 1997: 111T<br>1998: 108T<br>2000: 64T<br>2002: 56T<br>2004: 38T<br>2010: 0T<br>2019: 0T                                                                                                                                                                                             | Presumed extinct |

Translocated individuals/subpopulation (T).

## Habitat and ecology

*Phebalium daviesii* occurs along river banks at ~20 m above sea level in well-drained, coarse sandy soils among exposed granite boulders and riparian woodland vegetation, dominated by *Eucalyptus viminalis* and a shrubby understorey (TSS 2011). Associated species include *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *Pomaderris apetala*, *Zieria arborescens*, *Micrantheum hexandrum*, *Leptospermum langierum* and *Hovea corrickiae* (TSS 2011).

*Phebalium daviesii* produces large amounts of seed but germination requirements remain poorly-understood. The age structure of the population indicates recruitment may occur from the seedbank after disturbance such as fire or flooding. As the species appears to have a persistent seedbank, extreme fluctuations are not likely. The species is thought to be a palaeoendemic; restricted to refugial habitat since the end of the last glaciation (Kirkpatrick and Brown 1984). Subpopulations display relatively high genetic diversity suggesting that the population decline is relatively recent and at least partially anthropogenic (Lynch and Vaillancourt 1995). The species is considered severely fragmented (IUCN 2019) as all individuals occur in very small, isolated subpopulations adjacent to cleared land. Generation length is unknown.

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                    | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.0004 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.0002 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 25                                          | High        |
| Trend                         | Fluctuating                                 | Medium      |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (lack of recruitment)                     | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                      | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 1                                           | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| Generation length             | Unknown                                     | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                              | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                         | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                      | High        |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                            |
| B1+2ab(i-iv)   | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; and continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations. |
| C2a(i,ii)      | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation, 90-100% of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                                           |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                        |



## Threats

| Threat and timing                               | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Suspended</i>                | Majority | Rapid    | Medium        | All wild plants occur on private land adjacent to historically cleared land. Both naturally-occurring subpopulations are now protected under conservation covenants, but future changes in land ownership may alter land management activities including clearing. The species is considered severely fragmented as all individuals occur in very small, isolated subpopulations adjacent to cleared land. |
| Herbivores (domestic stock)<br><i>Suspended</i> | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | The population occurs adjacent to grazing pasture, with trampling and defoliation observed. The subpopulations were fenced in 1996 but cattle had breached the fence on the western side of the river in 2017 and the fence was in very poor condition (R Schahinger pers.comm. 2017).                                                                                                                     |
| Lack of recruitment<br><i>Ongoing</i>           | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | Few seedlings have been observed; germination requirements particularly in relation to disturbance are not well-understood. The species occurs at one location as this threat operates at the subpopulation scale, or larger, given it is not well-understood and management activities have not been able to abate population declines.                                                                   |
| Herbivores (native)<br><i>Ongoing</i>           | Majority | Rapid    | Medium        | Browsing by native animals reduced the establishment success of translocated plants and continues to impact the health of remaining individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                | Whole    | Slow     | Medium        | Invasive weeds including gorse, blackberry, hawthorn, foxglove and willow are present within the habitat (O Carter pers.comm. 2020). Invasive weeds increase competition and alter fuel loads and thus fire regimes, which may have substantial impacts on recruitment and overall population abundance.                                                                                                   |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Future</i>           | Whole    | Unknown  | Unknown       | <i>Phebalium daviesii</i> is susceptible to phytophthora under laboratory conditions (Barker and Wardlaw 1995) although wild subpopulations remain uninfected (Threatened Species Unit 2001).                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Stochastic events<br><i>Future</i>              | Whole    | Rapid    | Medium        | The entire population occurs within 5 m of a river that is prone to flooding (O Carter pers.comm. 2020). Individuals have been lost in past floods. This disturbance may facilitate germination although at inappropriate intervals or severity could destroy the whole population.                                                                                                                        |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified in a recovery plan (TSS 2011).
- Invasive weed control was conducted from 1996-2004 and the population was fenced to exclude cattle, although the fence was breached in 2017 and the fence was in poor condition. The population is protected under a perpetual conservation covenant.
- Measures have been undertaken to minimise the risk of phytophthora spread.
- *Ex situ* populations have been established and translocations using cuttings have been attempted at four sites (three introductions and one augmentation of a natural subpopulation) with limited success. Floods, fire and herbivore browsing reduced the number of translocated individuals from 347 to 18 (O Carter pers.comm. 2020). A collection of all genotypes has been maintained at the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens and propagated individuals have been made available to the public. Individuals have been planted at St Helens town to raise awareness of the species.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Detect more subpopulations through targeted surveys, especially after disturbance.
- Maintain *ex situ* collection with maximum range of genetic diversity possible.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via translocations to spread extinction risk.

### Information required

| Theme                             | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Life history and ecology          | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High           |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes | Investigate the response of the species to fire/ flooding in terms of recruitment and population recovery.                                                                                                                            | High           |
| Population surveys                | Monitor population to determine response to threats and management actions.<br>Undertake targeted surveys at historic locations after disturbance in attempts to locate additional subpopulations.                                    | High<br>Medium |

### Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                          | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Stakeholder engagement                     | Continue to liaise with the owners of the covenanted properties on either side of the George River to ensure compliance.                                  | High     |
| Grazing                                    | Continue to protect all subpopulations (wild/translocated) from grazing impacts. Repair and maintain fence on Marthavale (western bank of George River).  | High     |
| Invasive weeds                             | Continue invasive weed management, including systematic mapping of weeds in the vicinity of all subpopulations.                                           | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Maintain <i>ex situ</i> collections and establish more translocated subpopulations in secure habitat, considering lessons learnt from previous plantings. | High     |

## Experts consulted

Oberon Carter, Andrew Crane and Richard Schahinger.

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## *Pimelea cremnophila* L.M.Copel & I.Telford [THYMELEACEAE] Gorge rice-flower



*Pimelea cremnophila* flowers and leaves (left), and rocky habitat of the species in October 2020 after wildfire in late 2019 (right; images: Lachlan Copeland).

### Overview

*Pimelea cremnophila* was first collected in 2002, when it occurred in three small subpopulations along a gorge rim. Two of the three subpopulations now have no extant plants, and <100 individuals remain. Declines appear to be caused by low recruitment and herbivory from goats and macropods, which is exacerbated in dry years. Further monitoring is required to document population dynamics, particularly in response to fire, drought and browsing.

### Conservation status

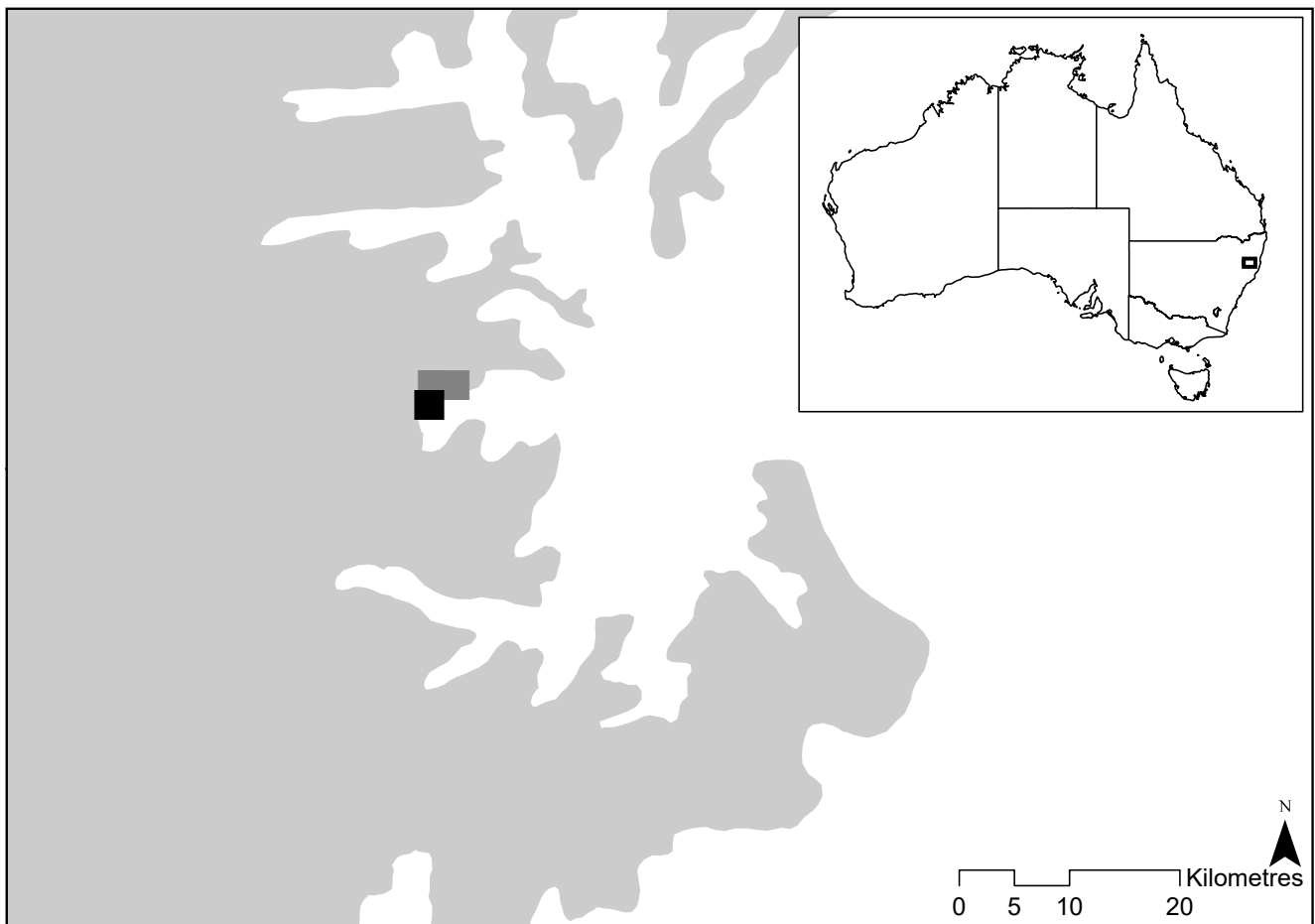
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Not listed                         |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Erect shrub to 2.5 m with red-brown stems that are hairy when young (Copeland and Telford 2006). Leaves are opposite, narrow, 10-37 mm long and 2.5-6 mm wide, with densely hairy petioles. Inflorescences are axillary or terminal with 1-4 flowers that are either male, bisexual or functionally female. Fruits are green and dry with red-brown seeds 3-3.5 mm long and 2 mm wide (Copeland and Telford 2006). *Pimelea cremnophila* appears most similar to *P. umbratica*, from which it differs by its longer denser indumentum, less prominent secondary leaf venation, predominantly axillary inflorescences, and smaller anthers on distinct filaments (Copeland and Telford 2006).

### Distribution

*Pimelea cremnophila* is known from a single location in Oxley Wild Rivers National Park to the east of Walcha in the New England Tablelands bioregion of New South Wales (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020a). The species is not considered severely fragmented as it occurs in an area of contiguous remnant habitat (IUCN 2019).



Current (black square) and historic (grey squares) distribution of *Pimelea cremnophila* in Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, within the New England Tablelands bioregion (shaded grey) of New South Wales (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; NSW DPIE 2020a).

## Population estimate and trends

*Pimelea cremnophila* is currently known from one subpopulation with <100 individuals. When it was first observed by botanists in 2002, three subpopulations were scattered along ca. 5 km of gorge rims on tributaries feeding into the Macleay River. Monitoring occurred in 2003, 2004 and 2008, and no individuals were present at the two northern subpopulations by November 2015 (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2017). Wildfire in 2019 burnt the entire habitat of *P. cremnophila*, killing the remaining mature individuals at the southern subpopulation, but ca. 70 seedlings <20 cm tall were observed in a single patch of 20 m<sup>2</sup> in October 2020 (L Copeland pers.comm. 2020). No recruitment occurred at the northern subpopulations, indicating the species may be locally extinct. Relatively few juvenile plants have been recorded overall and the species is thought to be declining due to a range of threats.

Targeted surveys in suitable habitat since 2005, including a major survey in 2012-2013, have failed to locate new subpopulations. A large area of similar habitat is present throughout the region and further searches are recommended (TSSC 2017).

## Habitat and ecology

*Pimelea cremnophila* occurs in shallow, skeletal loams over Walcha-metasediments on exposed or sheltered cliffs at 1050-1090 m above sea level (Copeland and Telford 2006). All individuals occur at sites with a south-westerly to south-easterly aspect amongst open forest with a shrubby understorey (Copeland and Telford 2006). Associated species include *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *Eucalyptus retinens*, *E. campanulata*, *Acacia blakei*, *Denhamia sylesytris*, *Prostanthera rhombea*, *Dodonaea rhombifolia*, *Astrotricha longifolia*, *Ozothamnus obcordatus*, *Persoonia media*, *Callistemon* sp., *Correa reflexa*, *Lepidosperma elatius*, *L. laterale*, *Rhodanthe* sp. and *Notodanthonia longifolia* (Copeland and Telford 2006).

Flowering has been recorded in October, although the species probably flowers throughout spring. Plants are polygamous, with functionally male and bisexual flowers on the same plants, and only functionally female on others (Copeland and Telford 2006). The species appears to be fast-growing and its lifespan is estimated to be between 5-10 years; thus generation length is estimated as seven years. The species is probably an obligate-seeder and maintains

a long-lived soil-stored seedbank like other species in the genus, so extreme fluctuations are not considered likely (IUCN 2019). Fire killed all mature individuals in 2019, with seedlings observed thereafter (L Copeland pers.comm. 2020). However no seed germinated at the two subpopulations where adults have been absent for 5-7 years.

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                                        | Estimate                                                | Reliability    |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual)<br>Trend | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (1.6 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing  | Medium<br>High |
| Area of occupancy (actual)<br>Trend    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.1 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing | Medium<br>High |
| No. of mature individuals<br>Trend     | <100<br>Decreasing                                      | Medium<br>High |
| No. of locations (key threat)<br>Trend | 1 vertebrate pests<br>Decreasing                        | Medium<br>High |
| No. of subpopulations<br>Trend         | 1<br>Decreasing                                         | Medium<br>High |
| Generation length                      | 7 years                                                 | Medium         |
| Extreme fluctuations                   | Not documented                                          | Medium         |
| Severely fragmented                    | No                                                      | High           |
| Continuing decline                     | Observed                                                | Medium         |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                        |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; 1 location; and continuing decline observed in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(ii)        | CR: <250 mature individuals, continuing decline observed; and 90-100% of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                                                               |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                    |

### Threats

| Threat and timing                                                | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vertebrate pests (introduced and native)<br><i>Ongoing</i>       | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | There is evidence of defoliation and trampling by feral goats, which may be contributing to the apparent lack of juvenile plants. Macropods may also contribute to this browsing pressure (L Copeland pers.comm. 2017).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Lack of recruitment/inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Majority | Rapid    | Medium        | Few juvenile plants have been observed while mature individuals have died, resulting in an overall population decline. The species appears to be an obligate-seeder that relies on appropriately-timed fires to simulate recruitment and allow sufficient replenishment of the soil seedbank, but further information on population dynamics is required (TSSC 2017). A particularly intense fire burnt the entire population in late 2019, and killed all adult plants, with 70 seedlings emerging by October 2020 (L Copeland pers.comm. 2020). |



| Threat and timing                  | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stochastic events<br><i>Future</i> | Whole | Rapid    | Medium        | Due to the small population size and restricted range, the species is vulnerable to stochastic events.                                                                                                             |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>    | Whole | Unknown  | Unknown       | Mortality of mature individuals was observed during a very dry period from 2002-2003 (L Copeland pers. comm. 2017). Increased drought frequency (Dowdy <i>et al.</i> 2015) may increase drought-induced mortality. |

## Current management

- There is no national recovery plan or conservation advice for this species. Site-based recovery actions for this species are detailed under the Saving our Species program including further surveys and monitoring, seed collection and propagation for translocation, feral goat control and implementing an appropriate fire regime (NSW DPIE 2020b).
- This species is protected in Oxley Wild Rivers National Park.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known population.
- Detect more subpopulations through targeted surveys.
- Establish *ex situ* population representing maximum range of genetic diversity possible.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via habitat management or translocations (augmentation).

## Information required

| Theme                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority         |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Population surveys         | Undertake targeted surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations, especially after disturbance.<br><br>Monitor subpopulations to determine response to threats and management actions. | High<br><br>High |
| Life history and ecology   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High             |
| Inappropriate fire regimes | Determine a suitable fire regime for the species to increase the number of mature individuals.                                                                                                                                        | High             |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                 | Priority     |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Grazing                                    | Control feral goat abundance within the habitat of this species.<br>Fence individuals where possible to protect from grazing.                                                    | High<br>High |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Implement appropriate fire regime to increase abundance of mature individuals in the long term.                                                                                  | High         |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Develop and maintain <i>ex situ</i> collection representing maximum range of genetic diversity possible as an insurance population and in preparation for future translocations. | High         |

## Experts consulted

Lachlan Copeland.

## References

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- Threatened Species Scientific Committee (2017) 'Preliminary Determination for *Pimelea cremnophila*'. Available at: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/threatenedspecies/determinations/PDPimcremnCR.pdf> [Verified 25 September 2020]

## *Pimelea venosa* Threlfall [THYMELEACEAE] Bolivia Hill pimelea, Bolivia Hill rice-flower



*Pimelea venosa* (clockwise from top left) inflorescence (image: © Murray Fagg 2017), habit and seedlings that germinated post-fire and rain in July 2020 (images: Todd Soderquist).

### Overview

*Pimelea venosa* was first collected in 1886 and has rarely been observed since then. When found, subpopulations are very small and have vanished without observed recruitment. Most recently, a subpopulation declined gradually from 46 individuals in 2012 to zero by 2018, despite intensive threat management. This patch was burnt during summer 2019 followed by consistent rainfall, which triggered a flush of seedlings by July 2020. An *ex situ* subpopulation derived from six individuals has been established to research threats via adaptive translocation. Given the species has been historically difficult to locate, it may be another decade before further subpopulations are documented.

### Conservation status

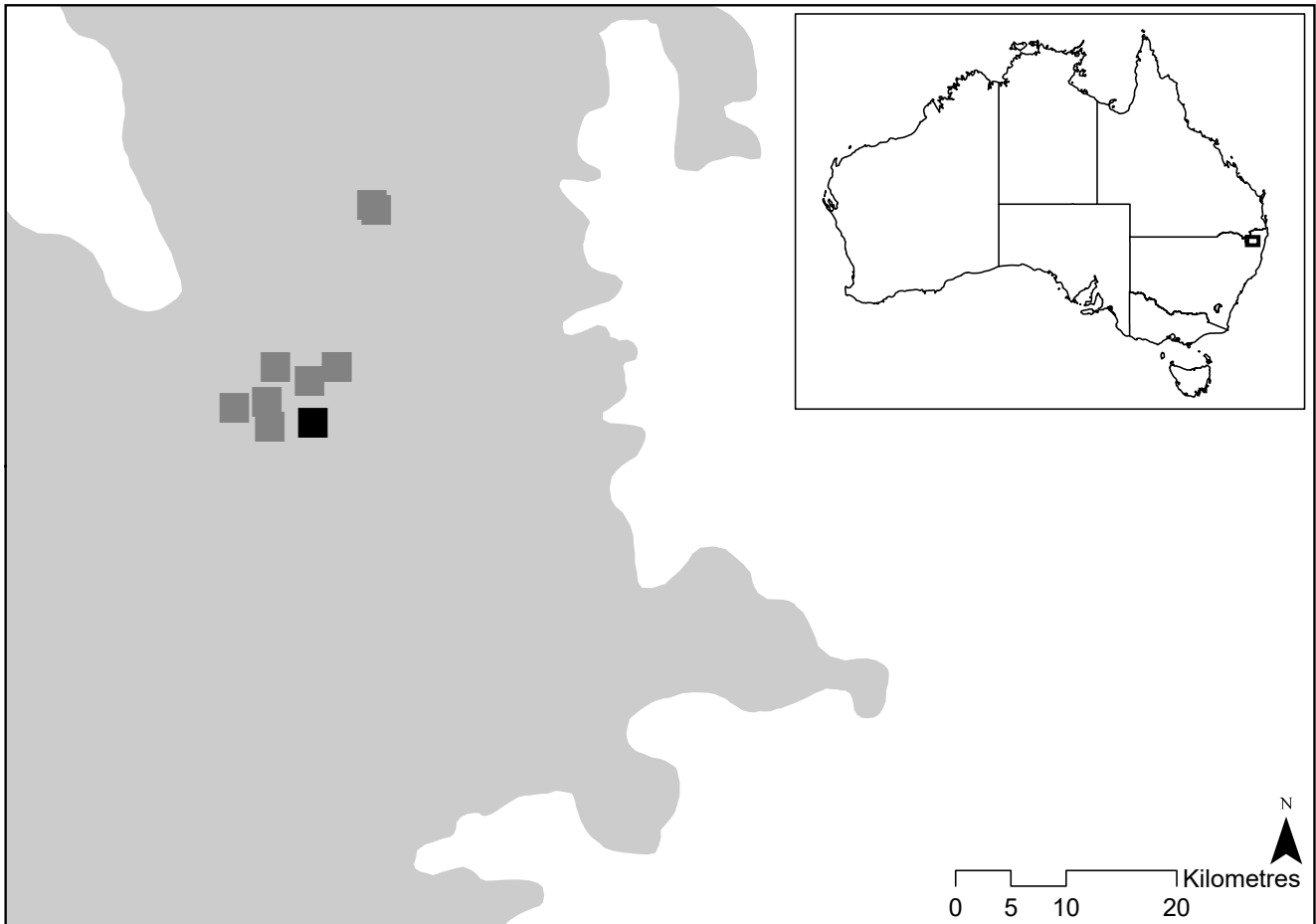
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Dense, hairy, erect shrub to 2 m tall (Rye 1990). Leaves 10-15 mm long and 4-6 mm wide, with prominent brown primary and secondary veins. Flowers are typically bisexual, white and 8-10 mm long (Rye 1990). The species is distinguished by the densely hairy leaves and stems, and the prominent brown primary and secondary leaf veins (Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts 2008). Although individual plants can grow to 2 m in height, 1 m is more typical as they become recumbent with age (T Soderquist pers.comm. 2020).

## Distribution

*Pimelea venosa* is known from the Bolivia region between Deepwater and Tenterfield in the New England Tablelands bioregion of New South Wales (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020a). Although naturally fragmented, *P. venosa* occurs in relatively intact habitat and is not considered severely fragmented (IUCN 2019).



Current (black square) and historic (grey squares) distribution of *Pimelea venosa* in the New England Tablelands bioregion (shaded grey) of New South Wales (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; NSW DPIE 2020a).

## Population estimate and trends

*Pimelea venosa* is currently known from a single subpopulation comprising >200 seedlings and no mature individuals. The species was first collected in 1886, and subsequent records indicate the species was localised and occasional. (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; NSW DPIE 2020a).

Additional sites were recorded in the 1980s, but the species was not re-found during an extensive survey in 1999. In 2012, one healthy subpopulation was found with 46 individuals including numerous juveniles. Threatened species managers only became aware of the subpopulation in 2014, when only 15 individuals remained (T Soderquist pers. comm. 2020). Despite hand watering during drought and caging to protect from herbivores, only three plants remained alive in 2017. A further five individuals found 200 metres away also declined, and by 2018 no plants survived at the site. After a low-intensity summer fire followed by consistent rainfall in 2019, >200 seedlings sprouted in July 2020 (T Soderquist pers.comm. 2020).

Targeted searching is difficult as the habitat requirements and vegetation associations of the species are not well-understood. The species also occurs in small, isolated patches, and can be present in the seedbank while plants are absent making detection difficult. Further opportunistic searching in suitable/potential habitat is required, especially in areas that were burnt in the extensive 2019 wildfires.

## Habitat and ecology

*Pimelea venosa* has been found in skeletal or black sandy soils among outcropping granite boulders. Associated vegetation is open eucalypt woodland or forest with *Xanthorrhoea* spp., *Solanum* spp. and *Pteridium esculentum* (NSW DPIE 2019). Partial shade seems to benefit the species, although it can grow in sun as well (NSW DPIE 2019). Generation length is estimated as 3 years; plants flower within 1-2 years and can live for 8 years (T Soderquist pers. comm. 2020).

Flowers are bisexual and have been observed from October to December. Heavy flowering has been occurring during winter in the extant subpopulation (NSW DPIE 2019). Recruitment had not been observed in the wild until 2020. Seeds have been propagated *ex situ* both with and without the effect of smoke or scarification, but success is typically low (e.g. 10%) (T Soderquist pers. comm. 2020). Self-seeding in *ex situ* environments (pots and gardens) indicates consistent water may be fundamental for seed germination. The flush of wild seedlings in 2020 further suggests that heat, lack of competition and water percolating through ash are important (T Soderquist pers. comm. 2020). Although fluctuations in abundance have been observed following disturbance, the species is thought to have a persistent seedbank and therefore is not prone to extreme fluctuations (IUCN 2019).

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                               | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.01 km <sup>2</sup> )              | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                             | Medium      |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.01 km <sup>2</sup> )              | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                             | Medium      |
| No. of mature individuals     | 0                                                      | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Unknown                                                | Low         |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (lack of recruitment/<br>inappropriate fire regimes) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                             | Medium      |
| No. of subpopulations         | 1                                                      | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                             | Medium      |
| Generation length             | 3 years                                                | Medium      |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                                         | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | No                                                     | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                                 | Medium      |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                                  |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; 1 location; and continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                                 |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                              |



## Threats

| Threat and timing                                                       | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lack of recruitment/<br>inappropriate fire<br>regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Majority | Rapid    | Medium        | No recruitment had been observed until 2020. Mature individuals in the last known subpopulation senesced despite threat abatement, but >200 seedlings germinated after fire and follow-up rain in July 2020 (T Soderquist pers.comm. 2020). The species appears to be an obligate-seeder so sufficient time is required for the species to produce seed, but fire is also required to stimulate germination.                                                       |
| Grazing (feral and<br>native)<br><i>Ongoing</i>                         | Whole    | Slow     | Medium        | The species is vulnerable to grazing by goats and macropods, especially during dry periods. Although plants were grazed in the only extant subpopulation, this did not seem to be the cause of death or lack of recruitment. Grazing may also degrade habitat by compacting soils and altering vegetation structure, but may provide benefits by reducing competition in granite substrates where water penetration may be limited (T Soderquist pers.comm. 2020). |
| Herbivory<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                             | Minority | Unknown  | Unknown       | Caterpillars have been observed attacking plant stems. Diurnal and nocturnal examination of the last known subpopulation detected no insect herbivory on leaves although borers of an unknown species weakened some large stems, causing them to break off (T Soderquist pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Infrastructure<br>maintenance<br><i>Future</i>                          | Minority | Rapid    | Low           | Subpopulations may occur along vehicle tracks and near rail and road easements, and are thus are vulnerable to maintenance activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Stochastic events<br><i>Future</i>                                      | Minority | Rapid    | Low           | Due to the very restricted range and small population size the species is vulnerable to stochastic events including drought.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Current management

- There is no national recovery plan for this species. Recovery actions are outlined in the conservation advice (Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts 2008) and under the Saving our Species program (NSW DPIE 2020b).
- The species has been recorded in Bolivia Hill Nature Reserve.
- The distribution of this species overlaps with the White box-yellow box-Blakely's red gum grassy woodland and derived native grassland EPBC Act-listed ecological community.
- Intensive recovery actions have been undertaken by NSW DPIE staff with the support of private landholders. Individual wild plants were watered during dry periods, caged to protect against vertebrate herbivory, fertilised with foliar nutrients, released from understorey competition and protected from insect herbivory. Despite slowing decline, the plants continued to senesce.
- Material from six individuals has been successfully propagated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Australian National Botanic Gardens, and in private nurseries and gardens. Efforts to stimulate sprouting from the soil seedbank were made by spreading ash on trial plots, watering, removal of competition and soil disturbance. None were successful.
- The 2020 seedlings have been protected from grazing, and once old enough will provide cuttings for further *ex situ* propagation. A new seed crop is expected from these plants in winter 2021 (T Soderquist pers.comm. 2020).
- An *ex situ* subpopulation has been established with cuttings and seed. Translocations are planned with these individuals. Experiments to stimulate recruitment will also be undertaken (NSW DPIE 2020b).
- Seeds collected from the 1986 subpopulation have low viability but may still add some genetic diversity to the translocations.
- Trial plantings of individual cultivated plants using multiple techniques have been conducted in several 'wild-garden' scenarios where health and survival could be closely monitored. Results have been highly variable and do not yet indicate best practice (T Soderquist pers.comm. 2020).



## Conservation objectives

- Protect and monitor single known extant subpopulation.
- Maintain and expand *ex situ* subpopulation.
- Detect more subpopulations through opportunistic surveys, e.g. while informed individuals are conducting other projects in potential habitat.
- Protect habitat of known subpopulations in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Determine the threats limiting survival and recruitment of the species in the wild through adaptive trials with translocated individuals.
- Translocate species to secure habitat and re-establish wild subpopulations via augmentation.

## Information required

| Theme                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Priority       |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Life history and ecology   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations.                                                                                                                                                              | High           |
| Inappropriate fire regimes | Determine a suitable fire regime for the species to increase the number of mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | High           |
| Population surveys         | Monitor subpopulations to determine response to threats and management actions, especially survival of seedlings post-fire.<br>Undertaken opportunistic surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations, particularly after fire (the cost-benefit of another extensive targeted survey does not warrant searching for this enigmatic species alone). | High<br>Medium |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                             | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Implement translocation to secure habitat and use long-term trials to examine the ecology/threats of the species.                                                            | High     |
|                                            | Collect cuttings and seeds from 2020 seedlings to expand <i>ex situ</i> collection.                                                                                          | High     |
| Extension and awareness                    | Raise awareness of the species with local stakeholders in attempts to locate additional subpopulations, especially after disturbance including fire or substantial rainfall. | High     |
| Habitat protection                         | Protect habitat and any future subpopulations of the species in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                                         | Medium   |
|                                            | Manage feral goats within these areas to improve habitat quality.                                                                                                            | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Todd Soderquist.

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## *Pomaderris delicata* N.G.Walsh & F.Coates [RHAMNACEAE] Delicate pomaderris



*Pomaderris delicata* flowers and leaves (image: Neville Walsh).

### Overview

*Pomaderris delicata* is an extremely rare species that has recently undergone a substantial decline due to roadworks. Despite recovery actions including translocations, and locating previously unrecorded individuals at one subpopulation, life history and threats to the species remain poorly-understood.

### Conservation status

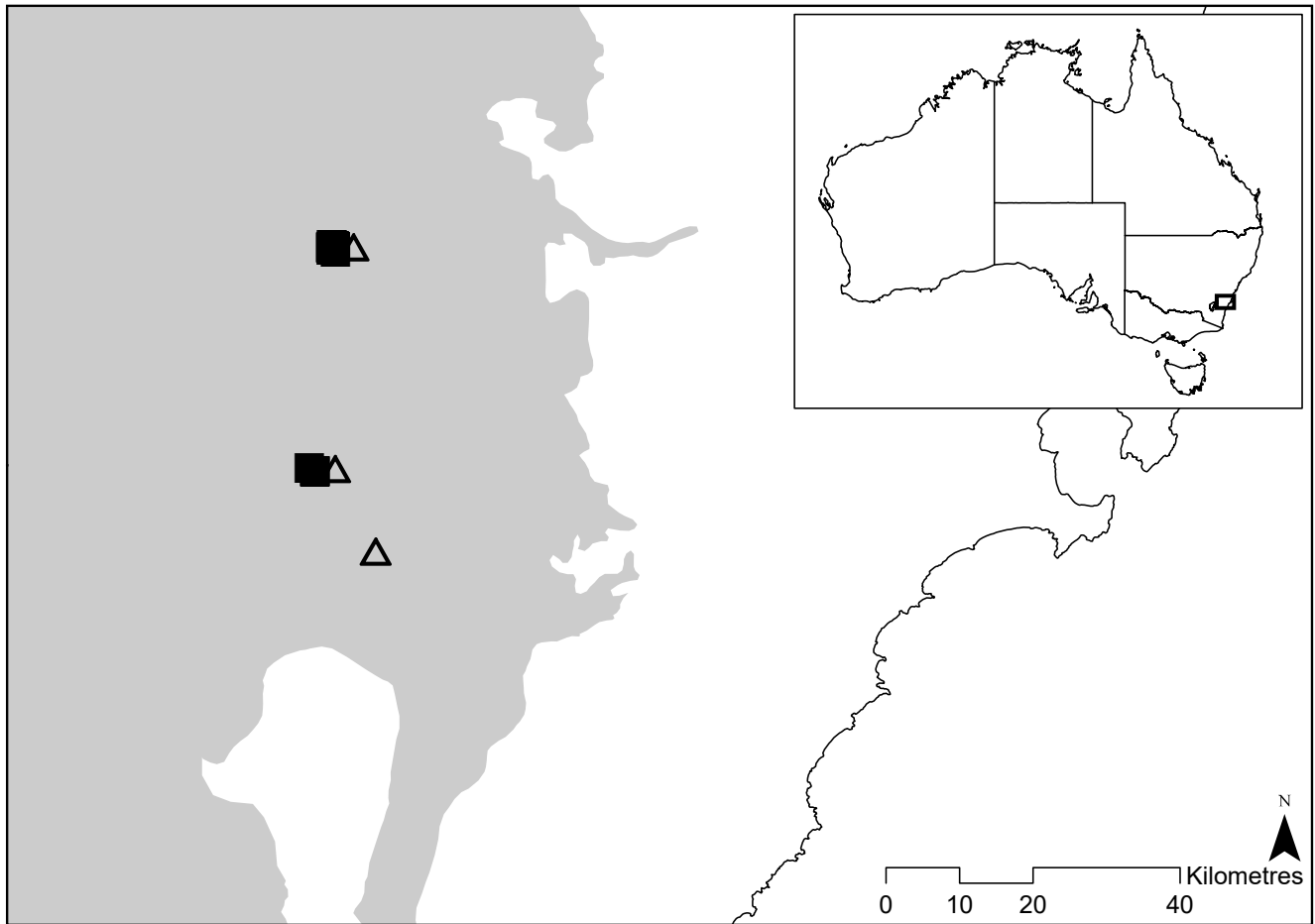
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i>                        | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Upright, perennial shrub to 2 m with hairy young stems that become glabrous by their second year (Walsh and Coates 1997). Leaves are elliptic, 13-30 mm long and 5-15 mm wide with entire margins. Inflorescence is terminal, 1.5-4 cm long and 2-5 cm wide, with 20->50 yellow, hairy flowers. The brown fruit are ellipsoid to obovoid, 2.5-3.5 mm long, with seeds to 2 mm. Before 1997, this species was considered as *P. andromedifolia*, which occurs nearby but has longer leaves that are always silky-pubescent on the abaxial surface and larger, more persistent stipules (Walsh and Coates 1997).

## Distribution

*Pomaderris delicata* is known from a narrow range south-west of Goulburn in the South Eastern Highlands bioregion of New South Wales (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020a).



Current distribution (black squares) of *Pomaderris delicata* in the South Eastern Highlands bioregion (shaded grey) of New South Wales (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; NSW DPIE 2020a). Three translocations have occurred but are not yet considered self-sustaining (hollow triangles), including an augmentation at both extant subpopulations, and one introduction (Silcock *et al.* 2019).

## Population estimate and trends

*Pomaderris delicata* is currently known from two subpopulations >30 km apart with <150 mature individuals (NSW DPIE 2020a; Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2017). There were >215 plants in 2002, but this declined to 86 plants in 2016 (TSSC 2017). Sixty additional individuals were located at one subpopulation in 2017, increasing the 2019 census to 142 mature individuals. Long-term viability of either remaining site is not certain and no seed dispersal between patches is likely (TSSC 2017).

Both subpopulations have been augmented with propagated individuals since 2015, although survival has been variable and natural plants have continued to decline (Silcock *et al.* 2019). The species was introduced to Nadgigomar Nature Reserve in 2018 but all plants died within two months of planting despite favourable growing conditions (McDougall *et al.* 2018; Silcock *et al.* 2019). Two subsequent plantings were undertaken and 115 individuals were present in September 2019 (K McDougall pers.comm. 2020). Targeted surveys have been conducted since the species was first recorded in 1995, although additional subpopulations may exist and further survey is recommended (Walsh and Coates 1997).

*Pomaderris delicata* monitoring data, 2002-2016 (TSSC 2017; K McDougall unpublished data).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                                | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                           | Trend      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 (road reserve, private property and nature reserve) | 2002: 200<br>2012: 74<br>2014: 19<br>2016: 19<br>2019: 76* (55T)                   | Decreasing |
| 2 (road reserve, private property and Crown Land)     | 2002: >15<br>2007: road destroyed plants<br>2012: 30<br>2016: 67<br>2019: 66 (64T) | Decreasing |

Translocated individuals/subpopulation (T). \*Includes 60 additional plants found in 2017.

## Habitat and ecology

*Pomaderris delicata* occurs on shallow, rocky soils derived from Silurian and Ordovician sandstones and siltstones (Walsh and Coates 1997). It grows amongst dry open forest dominated by *Eucalyptus sieberi*. Associated species include *E. macrorrhyncha*, *E. agglomerata*, *Allocasuarina littoralis* and other *Pomaderris* spp. The species occurs in sheltered situations but also on exposed roadsides (Walsh and Coates 1997). Mychorrhizal associations have not been recorded for *Pomaderris* spp. but may be important (McDougall *et al.* 2018).

Flowering is regular from September to October although seed-set is poor (Walsh and Coates 1997; McDougall *et al.* 2018). *Pomaderris delicata* is an obligate-seeder and mass recruitment can occur from the soil seedbank after disturbance. At both subpopulations, the cohorts are multi-aged (McDougall *et al.* 2018), indicating recruitment may also occur in the absence of disturbance. In spring 2019, seedlings were observed at Subpopulation 1 despite mature plants being absent for nearly a decade. This indicates the seedbank may persist for many years (K McDougall pers. comm. 2020) and therefore extreme fluctuations are unlikely (IUCN 2019). Plants may live for 15-50 years and generation length is estimated at 8-26 years (TSSC 2017).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                               | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 19 km <sup>2</sup>                     | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Stable                                 | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 8 km <sup>2</sup> (1 km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Stable                                 | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | <100                                   | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                             | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 2 (infrastructure maintenance)         | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Stable                                 | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 2                                      | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Stable                                 | High        |
| Generation length             | 8-26 years                             | Medium      |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                         | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                    | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                 | High        |



## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                          |
| B1+2ab(iii,v)  | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; continuing decline observed and projected in area, extent and quality of habitat, and number of mature individuals. |
| C1             | CR: <250 mature individuals; and continuing decline of 25% in one generation observed.                                                                                                            |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                      |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                             | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                   | n/a      | n/a        | n/a           | Land clearing, primarily for agriculture, has resulted in the decline and fragmentation of available habitat for the species. The species is considered severely fragmented as both subpopulations are small, separated by >30 km and isolated on roadside reserves and private property.                                                                                                                   |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i>  | Majority | Very rapid | High          | Half of one subpopulation was destroyed during road construction in 2007. Although some recovery has occurred, both subpopulations occur on road/ rail reserves and are vulnerable to maintenance activities including spray drift, slashing, drainage construction and weed incursion. The species occurs at two locations when assessed against this threat, which is managed at the subpopulation scale. |
| Browsing (native and feral)<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Majority | Rapid      | Medium        | The species is vulnerable to defoliation by macropods (especially swamp wallabies) and feral herbivores (deer). Some plants are now caged.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i>  | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | As an obligate-seeder, <i>P. delicata</i> requires appropriate fire intervals to reach reproductive maturity and contribute to the seedbank, and regenerate from seed following fire. Regeneration has occurred recently at one subpopulation. Disturbance and fire ecology are poorly-understood.                                                                                                          |
| Stochastic events<br><i>Future</i>            | Whole    | Rapid      | Medium        | Due to the small population size and restricted distribution this species is vulnerable to stochastic events including repeated hot wildfires and prolonged droughts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>               | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | Climatic drying may exacerbate stochastic events such as repeated wildfires and prolonged droughts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



## Current management

- A national conservation advice has been developed (TSSC 2017). Recovery actions are being implemented at three management sites under the Saving our Species program including grazing protection, stakeholder liaison, translocation and ongoing monitoring (NSW DPIE 2020b).
- Part of one subpopulation occurs within Pomaderris Nature Reserve.
- Existing subpopulations have been augmented with translocated individuals since 2015, although survival has been variable. The species was translocated to Nadgigomar Nature Reserve in 2017, but all plants died rapidly, possibly due to an insecticide used in propagation (McDougall *et al.* 2018). Subsequent plantings have been more successful and future translocations will use plants propagated from seed, which may be more enduring (K McDougall pers.comm. 2020).
- Research has confirmed the species is not vulnerable to phytophthora (K McDougall pers.comm. 2020).
- A seed orchard has been established for future translocation efforts.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Detect more subpopulations through targeted surveys.
- Protect habitat of known subpopulations in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Maintain and expand *ex situ* subpopulations.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via translocations (introductions and ongoing augmentation).

## Information required

| Theme                                  | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                     | Undertake targeted surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                      | High     |
|                                        | Monitor subpopulations (including translocated) to better understand threats and response to management actions.                                                                                                                      | High     |
| Life history and ecology               | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |
| Inappropriate disturbance/fire regimes | Determine a suitable disturbance/fire regime for the species to increase the number of mature individuals.                                                                                                                            | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                              | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                         | Protect known habitat of the species in appropriate conservation agreements.                                  | High     |
| Grazing                                    | Exclude herbivores from known subpopulations by fencing and caging, especially after recruitment events.      | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Maintain and expand <i>ex situ</i> subpopulations for ongoing translocation efforts.                          | High     |
| Invasive weeds                             | Manage invasive weeds at known subpopulations and in potential habitat where translocations may occur.        | Medium   |
| Extension and awareness                    | Raise awareness of the species with appropriate stakeholders in attempts to locate additional subpopulations. | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Keith McDougall.

## References

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## *Prasophyllum correctum* D.L.Jones [ORCHIDACEAE] Gaping leek-orchid



*Prasophyllum correctum* flowers (image: Jeff Jeanes, State Botanical Collection, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria) and inflorescence (image: Marc Freestone).

### Overview

*Prasophyllum correctum* is restricted to two small subpopulations along the Melbourne-Bairnsdale rail line. The majority of its grassy habitat has been cleared for agriculture and despite considerable research and recovery actions, both subpopulations are still declining with limited recruitment. This decline appears to be driven by competition with native grasses, while changing rainfall patterns may also contribute to lower emergence rates.

### Conservation status

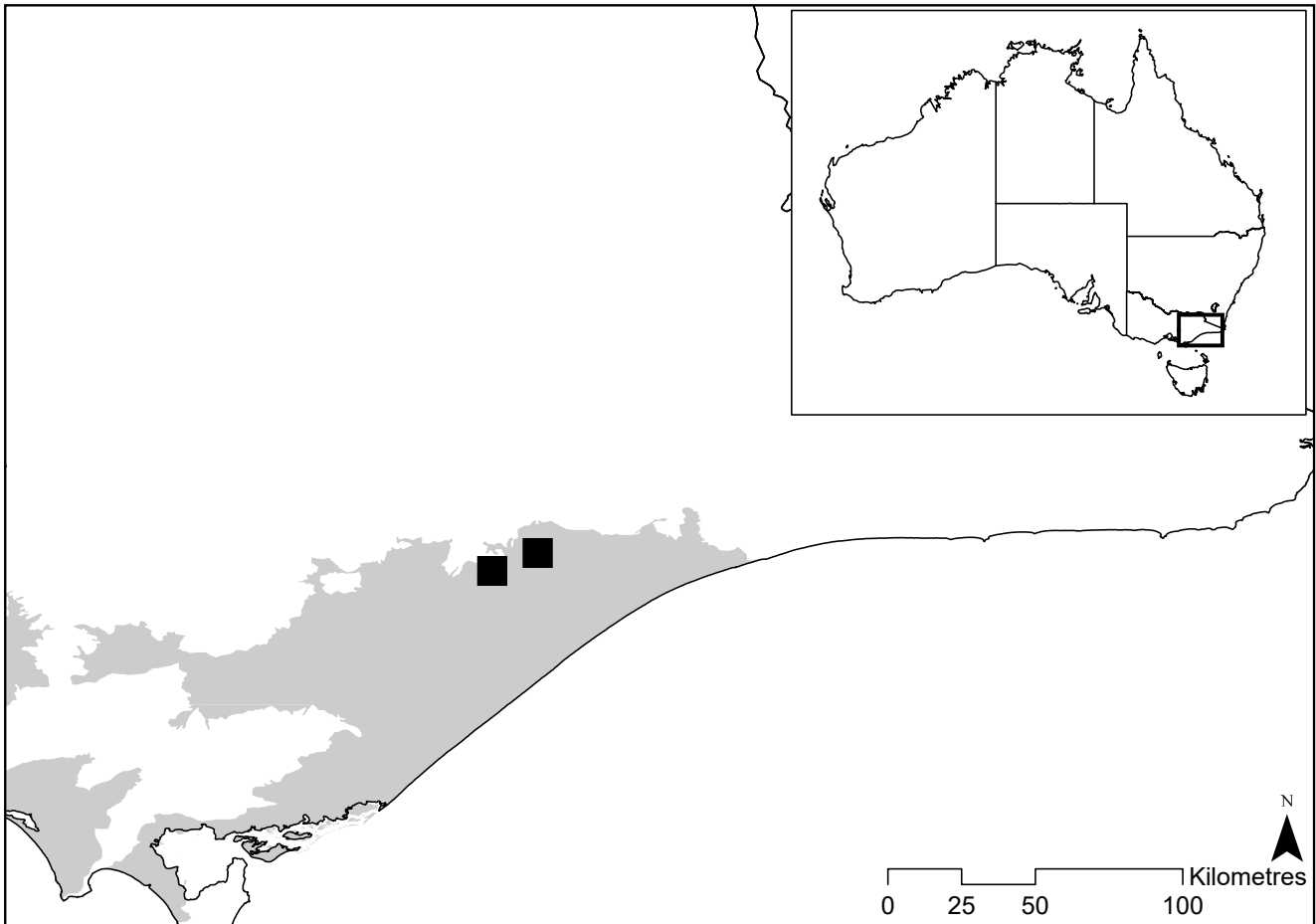
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>                            | Threatened                         |
| Advisory List of Rare and Threatened Plants in Victoria              | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Terrestrial orchid with a single, hollow, terete leaf 11-40 cm long and 0.5-4.5 mm wide (Jones 2003). Inflorescence is an erect, open spike to 47 cm of 5-27 yellow-green flowers (Jones 2003). Despite past taxonomic confusion with *P. chasmogamom* (Victoria) and *P. incorrectum* (Tasmania), *P. correctum* is now accepted to be endemic to Victoria (Kahout and Coates 2010). Morphologically similar plants have been reported at several sites on the volcanic plain west of Melbourne and further study is required to confirm their identity (Jeanes 2015).

## Distribution

*Prasophyllum correctum* is known from a very restricted area near Bairnsdale in the South Eastern Coastal Plain bioregion of Victoria (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2020). Although it was probably more widespread prior to extensive land use change, there are no historical collections of the species (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020).



Current distribution (black squares) of *Prasophyllum correctum* in the South Eastern Coastal Plain bioregion (shaded grey) of Victoria (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DELWP 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Prasophyllum correctum* is currently known from two subpopulations, and <15 mature individuals have been sighted in the last 9 years. Accurate population estimates are difficult as mature individuals can persist dormant underground, or resemble seedlings (Kahout and Coates 2010). At Munro Rail Reserve, 124 individuals have been marked, but only a subset will emerge and reproduce annually (Coates *et al.* 2006). Only two individuals were recorded in 2019 (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019).

Time-series monitoring indicates both subpopulations are declining. Targeted surveys have been conducted across the potential and known range of the species and additional subpopulations have not been located.

*Prasophyllum correctum* monitoring data, 1992-2019 (Kahout and Coates 2006; Coates *et al.* 2006; N Reiter pers. comm. 2019).

| Subpopulation (tenure)          | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                                                                                                      | Trend      |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 Munro (rail line easement)    | 1992: 54<br>1993: 2<br>1994: 25<br>1995: 29<br>1996: 4<br>1997: 28<br>1998: 37<br>1999: 6<br>2000: 12<br>2001: 6<br>2002: 0<br>2003: 2<br>2017: 10<br>2019: 0 | Decreasing |
| 2 Lindenow (rail line easement) | 1992: 4<br>2010: <15<br>2017: 4<br>2018: 0<br>2019: 2                                                                                                         | Declining  |

## Habitat and ecology

*Prasophyllum correctum* occurs in well-drained sandy loams derived from alluvium, in grassland and grassy woodland dominated by *Themeda triandra*, *Poa clelandii* and *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Kahout and Coates 2006). Common inter-tussock species include *Chrysocephalum apiculatus*, *Craspedia variabilis*, *Burchardia umbellata*, *Bulbine bulbosa*, *Leptorhynchus squamatus*, *Dichopogon strictus*, *Thysanotus patersonii*, *Caesia calliantha* and *Lomandra longifolia* (Kahout and Coates 2006). Associated shrubs include *Dillwynia cinerascens*, *Grevillea lanigera* and *Pimelea humilis* (Kahout and Coates 2006). *Prasophyllum correctum* occurs alongside other orchids including *Diuris punctata*, *D. chryseopsis*, *D. sulphurea*, *Microtis unifolia*, *Lyperanthus suaveolens* and *Thelymitra pauciflora* (Kahout and Coates 2006).

Plants are dormant during summer when they persist underground as tubers (Kahout and Coates 2006). Flowering occurs in spring, with seed maturing in late November to December (Kahout and Coates 2006). *Prasophyllum correctum* is a nectar rewarding orchid, although the specific pollinators are not known (Kahout and Coates 2006). Fruit set varies from 26-77% between years (Coates *et al.* 2006) and seed germination depends on the mycorrhizal fungi *Ceratobasidium* spp. (M Freestone pers.comm. 2020). The time to maturity and senescence is difficult to estimate and generation length is unknown (Coates *et al.* 2006).

Plants rarely emerge for more than two consecutive years and can remain dormant for up to 5 years, although 1-2 years is more typical (Coates *et al.* 2006). Extended periods of dormancy are associated with mortality (Coates *et al.* 2006). Flowering is positively associated with fire intervals of <3 years (Coates *et al.* 2006), although abundance has not increased despite implementation of this fire regime over the past decade (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019). The species is thought to respond to above average winter-autumn rains, with very few plants seen in years of below average rainfall (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019). However, Coates *et al.* (2006) found that total number of emergent plants was negatively correlated with winter-autumn rainfall in the previous year, possibly due to competition from grasses under wetter conditions.

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                                        | Estimate                                                 | Reliability  |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual)<br>Trend | 8 km <sup>2</sup> (0.37 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Stable      | High<br>High |
| Area of occupancy (actual)<br>Trend    | 8 km <sup>2</sup> (0.001 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing | High<br>High |
| No. of mature individuals<br>Trend     | <15<br>Decreasing                                        | High<br>High |
| No. of locations (key threat)<br>Trend | 2 (all threats)<br>Stable                                | High<br>High |
| No. of subpopulations<br>Trend         | 2<br>Stable                                              | High<br>High |
| Generation length                      | Unknown                                                  | Low          |
| Extreme fluctuations                   | Not documented                                           | Medium       |
| Severely fragmented                    | Yes                                                      | High         |
| Continuing decline                     | Observed and projected                                   | Medium       |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                            |
| B1+2ab(iii,v)  | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; and continuing decline observed and projected in area/extent and quality of habitat and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                           |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                        |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                                   | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                                         | n/a   | n/a      | n/a           | Land clearing for agriculture has resulted in the decline and severe fragmentation of available habitat for the species. Only small remnants of the species' previously extensive grassy habitat remain, and both subpopulations are small and isolated by cleared land.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Lack of recruitment<br><i>Ongoing</i>                               | Whole | Rapid    | High          | Subpopulations are small and declining in the absence of recruitment. The species requires bare ground to emerge and reproduce; and seed set can drop to 25% in some years (Kahout and Coates 2010).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes and competition<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole | Rapid    | High          | Flowering and emergence have been positively associated with short fire intervals (Coates <i>et al.</i> 2006). However, declines are ongoing despite implementation of high frequency fire regimes since 2006 (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019). The effect of fire regimes on long-term abundance is not well-understood, although long fire-free intervals can increase competition from native plants including shrubs and grasses (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019). |



| Threat and timing                               | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Herbivores (feral and native)<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Slow     | Medium        | The species is vulnerable to defoliation by rabbits, hares and eastern grey kangaroos that are abundant in the habitat, especially after fires. Digging by rabbits has modified the habitat and destroyed individual plants (Kahout and Coates 2010).                                                                                     |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                | Minority | Slow     | Low           | Weeds can increase competition and alter fuel loads (Coates <i>et al.</i> 2006) but are not a major threat at the Munro subpopulation and a moderate threat at the Lindenow subpopulation (N Reiter pers. comm. 2019).                                                                                                                    |
| Land management practices<br><i>Ongoing</i>     | Whole    | Unknown  | Unknown       | The species occurs in small remnants surrounded by agricultural land. Fertiliser and herbicide drift may favour invasive weeds and increase competition, causing further population declines (Kahout and Coates 2010).                                                                                                                    |
| Low genetic diversity<br><i>Future</i>          | Whole    | Rapid    | Medium        | The species has declined below levels required for self-sustaining subpopulations at both sites, thus is highly vulnerable to Allee effects (N Reiter pers. comm. 2019).                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Illegal collection<br><i>Future</i>             | Whole    | Slow     | Low           | The species is vulnerable to illegal collection and trampling by orchid enthusiasts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Future</i>     | Whole    | Rapid    | Medium        | Both subpopulations occur in rail easements and are vulnerable to rail maintenance activities (Kahout and Coates 2006).                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>                 | Whole    | Unknown  | Unknown       | Climatic change may increase dry periods and alter fire regimes with implications for population abundance (Coates <i>et al.</i> 2006); projected reductions in winter-autumn rainfall will lower emergence and reproduction (N Reiter pers. comm. 2019), but may also limit competition from native species (Coates <i>et al.</i> 2006). |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (Kahout and Coates 2010).
- Subpopulations are not protected from grazing impacts.
- Some weed management has been undertaken although invasive weeds remain a conservation concern at one subpopulation (N Reiter pers. comm. 2019).
- There is a small representation of seed stored for conservation at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (N Reiter pers. comm. 2019).
- Neither subpopulation occurs in conservation estate; both occur on rail-line easements.
- Symbiotic propagation of this species, including research into seed viability, has been optimised at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Australian National University (M Freestone pers. comm. 2020). There are currently about 100 *ex situ* plants in the RBGV nursery, but no funding available to undertake translocations at present.
- Extensive targeted surveys have not located additional subpopulations.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Increase number of individuals and subpopulations in secure tenure by establishing an intensive *ex situ* propagation program and translocation plan.
- Increase understanding of pollinator ecology and microsite preferences.
- Improve habitat quality by threat mitigation.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Taxonomy                                   | Undertake genetic work to delineate <i>Prasophyllum</i> species, many of which are genetically similar and extremely rare (H Zimmer pers.comm. 2020).                                                               | High     |
| Population surveys                         | Continue targeted surveys and monitoring to determine response of species to threats and management actions.                                                                                                        | High     |
| Pollination ecology                        | Undertake research to identify pollinating species and their distribution in potential translocation sites to increase probability that translocated subpopulations will produce viable seed.                       | High     |
| Microsite preferences                      | Determine microsite preferences to inform management of extant subpopulations, site selection for translocation and management of habitat at translocated sites.                                                    | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Develop a translocation plan and identify potential sites for translocation into secure tenure.                                                                                                                     | High     |
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, fire ecology, population demographics, pollination and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Implement intensive propagation program to establish a conservation collection representing maximum range of genetic diversity and supply individuals for translocation.                                        | High     |
|                                            | Implement translocation plan.                                                                                                                                                                                   | High     |
| Habitat protection                         | Ensure habitat identified for translocation sites is protected in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                                                                          | High     |
| Supplementary watering                     | Trial supplementary watering program at both subpopulations to increase flowering, seed-set and survivorship, particularly during growth/ reproductive periods and when prevailing climatic conditions are dry. | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Monitor impacts of fire regimes on population abundance.                                                                                                                                                        | High     |
|                                            | Maintain fire intervals of <3 years in early autumn to increase the number of mature individuals and reduce competition with native flora.                                                                      | High     |
| Habitat quality                            | Manage invasive weeds in vicinity of extant subpopulations and identified translocation sites.                                                                                                                  | High     |
|                                            | Monitor impacts of herbivory (especially rabbits) and manage as necessary.                                                                                                                                      | High     |
| Extension and awareness                    | Ensure relevant stakeholders (associated with railway reserve) are informed of the subpopulation locations and appropriate management.                                                                          | High     |

## Experts consulted

Noushka Reiter, Marc Freestone and Neville Walsh.

## References

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- Kohout M, Coates F (2010) 'National Recovery Plan for the Gaping Leek-orchid *Prasophyllum correctum*'. (Department of Sustainability and Environment: Victoria) Available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/24e7fa12-fcc7-44e8-b42b-99b4bec97cd4/files/prasophyllum-correctum.pdf> [Verified 21 October 2020]

## *Prasophyllum laxum* R.J.Bates [ORCHIDACEAE] Lax leek-orchid



*Prasophyllum laxum* inflorescence at the type locality in 2018 (image: Shane Graves).

### Overview

*Prasophyllum laxum* is currently known from a single subpopulation. Fewer than 10 individuals have been recorded in surveys since a severe wildfire in 2017. Two previously known subpopulations are presumed extinct, and declines are ongoing in the extant subpopulation due to drought and wildfire. The species only occurs on private property that is not managed for conservation, but the nature and severity of threats are not well-understood.

### Conservation status

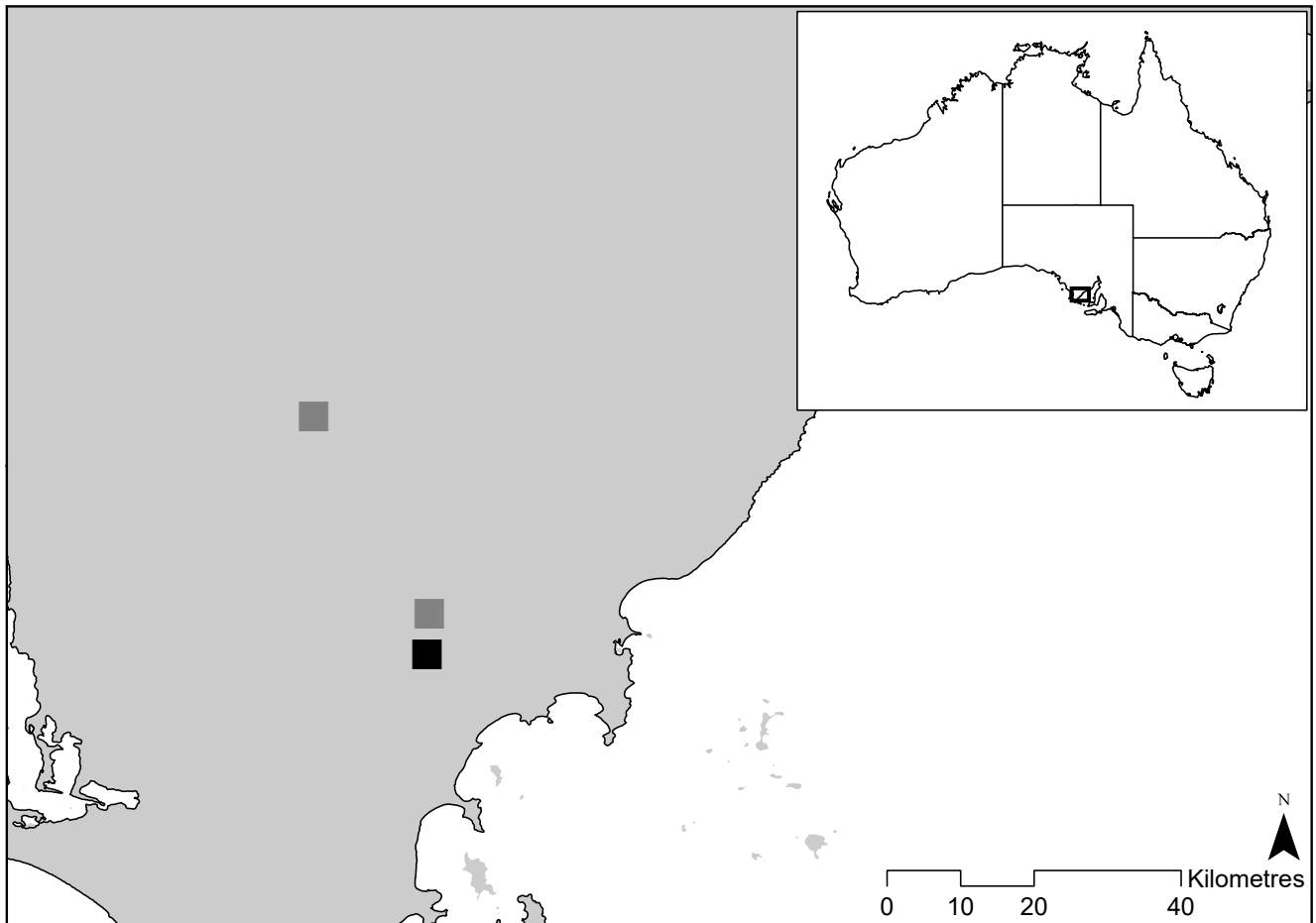
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i>                          | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Slender terrestrial orchid with a single leaf to 30 cm that tapers to a point (Bates 2008). Inflorescence of 5-20 strongly fragrant flowers to 7 mm wide are arranged in a loose, drooping spike to 6 cm long. Sepals are pale green, petals are linear with a brown stripe and the labellum is green to pink-brown with a distinct sigmoid bend. Fruit to 4 mm wide dehisce when mature. *Prasophyllum laxum* is distinguished by its 'lax' habit, pale colouring and sigmoid labellum. It co-occurs with the closely-related *P. fecundum* and *P. goldsackii* without intermediates, indicating strong genetic isolation (Bates 2008).

## Distribution

*Prasophyllum laxum* is known from a narrow range in the Koppio area within the Eyre York Block bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012). There is an unconfirmed record from Ungarra, ca. 20 km to the north-east.



Current (black square) and historic (grey squares) distribution of *Prasophyllum laxum* in the Eyre York Block bioregion (shaded grey) of South Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012).

## Population estimate and trends

*Prasophyllum laxum* is currently known from a single subpopulation of <50 mature individuals on private property. More than 500 plants were present here in 2004, but only three individuals were located after the Black Tuesday wildfire in 2017, declining again to seven individuals in 2018 (B Bates pers.comm. 2020). Subpopulations historically documented at Yeelanna (1913) and Hundred of Koppio (1966; AVH 2020) were presumed extinct by 2002 (Department of the Environment 2015). Given the species can persist dormant as a tuber and may be undetected in surveys, further searching is recommended (DE 2015).

## Habitat and ecology

*Prasophyllum laxum* occurs under *Allocasuarina verticillata* amongst an isolated hill of laterite and quartz (DE 2015). The species occurs on relatively fertile red-brown loamy soils and is absent from nearby calcrete or poor soils (DE 2015). Associated species include *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* and other *Prasophyllum* spp (DE 2015).

The ecology of *P. laxum* is poorly-documented. Flowering occurs between September and October and independent of fire (DE 2015). As with other *Prasophyllum* spp., the pollination mechanism may be sexual deception (Coates *et al.* 2006). Seed are probably wind-dispersed (DE 2015) and germination may depend on mycorrhizal fungi (Coates *et al.* 2006). For other *Prasophyllum* spp., dormancy occurs annually and may be extended depending on environmental conditions (Coates *et al.* 2006). Reproductive maturity for closely related taxa is thought to be 3-5 years with species living 10-20 years (DE 2015). Generation length for *P. laxum* is therefore estimated at 10 years (DE 2015).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                                        | Estimate                                                 | Reliability    |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual)<br>Trend | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.01 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing | Medium<br>High |
| Area of occupancy (actual)<br>Trend    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.01 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing | Medium<br>High |
| No. of mature individuals<br>Trend     | <50<br>Decreasing                                        | Medium<br>High |
| No. of locations (key threat)<br>Trend | 1 (all threats)<br>Stable                                | Medium<br>High |
| No. of subpopulations<br>Trend         | 1<br>Stable                                              | Medium<br>High |
| Generation length                      | 10 years                                                 | Medium         |
| Extreme fluctuations                   | Not documented                                           | Medium         |
| Severely fragmented                    | Yes                                                      | High           |
| Continuing decline                     | Observed                                                 | High           |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                           |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; and continuing decline observed in EOO, AOO, quality of habitat, number of locations/subpopulations and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(ii)        | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed; 100% of mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                                        |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                       |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                           | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                 | n/a   | n/a      | n/a           | Land clearing for agriculture has resulted in the decline and fragmentation of available habitat for the species. The species is considered severely fragmented as the only extant subpopulation is very small, and isolated by cleared land.                            |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>            | Whole | Unknown  | Unknown       | The single subpopulation occurs on private property where invasive weeds are present (DE 2015). Invasive weeds increase competition and alter fuel loads and thus fire regimes, but the specific impacts are unknown.                                                    |
| Grazing/ vertebrate pests<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole | Unknown  | Unknown       | The single subpopulation occurs on grazed land where soil crusts are being degraded by hard-hooved domestic stock. Rabbits are also contributing to grazing pressure (DE 2015). Impacts of grazing on population dynamics are not documented.                            |
| Wildfires<br><i>Future</i>                  | Whole | Unknown  | Unknown       | Only three individuals were relocated following the Black Tuesday wildfires in 2017, with eight plants emerging in 2018 (B Bates pers.comm. 2020). The fire ecology of <i>P. laxum</i> is poorly-understood, and population recovery or decline may occur in the future. |



| Threat and timing       | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                        |
|-------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mining<br><i>Future</i> | Whole | Unknown  | Unknown       | Mining activity has been proposed in the habitat of this species. |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (DE 2015).
- The species only occurs on private property and is not protected in conservation estate.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain extant subpopulation by implementing recovery actions.
- Increase understanding of the species biology and ecology.
- Protect historic and current habitat in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Establish *ex situ* subpopulations of the orchid and its mycorrhizal fungi.
- Increase the number of individuals and subpopulations in the wild by improving habitat quality and undertaking translocations (if feasible).

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Undertake targeted surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                           | High     |
|                                            | Monitor population to better understand threats and response to management actions.                                                                                                                                                                                                        | High     |
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements, mycorrhizal fungi associations, disturbance ecology and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Undertake research to inform <i>ex situ</i> conservation and potential for translocations.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                     | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                         | Protect known habitat in appropriate conservation agreements, especially to ensure extant subpopulation is secure from future mining threat.                                                         | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Establish <i>ex situ</i> conservation collection representing maximum range of genetic diversity possible to reduce extinction risk. If feasible, collect and store seed for conservation.           | High     |
| Grazing/vertebrate pests                   | Exclude grazing stock from the known subpopulation and potential habitat by fencing. Control rabbit populations and/or cage individuals to protect from defoliation.                                 | High     |
| Invasive weeds                             | Manage invasive weeds to reduce competition and improve habitat quality.                                                                                                                             | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Establish fire breaks around known subpopulation to reduce risk of future wildfires. Implement appropriate fire regime to increase habitat quality and the population abundance of <i>P. laxum</i> . | High     |
| Extension and awareness                    | Raise awareness of the species with local conservation groups and stakeholders in an attempt to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                    | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Bob Bates, Greg Kerr, Doug Bickerton, Tim Jury and Angela Duffy.

## References

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## *Prasophyllum tunbridgense* D.L.Jones [ORCHIDACEAE] Tunbridge leek-orchid



*Prasophyllum tunbridgense* habitat at Tunbridge Lagoon in Tasmania (left) and inflorescence (right; images: Mark Wapstra).

### Overview

*Prasophyllum tunbridgense* is restricted to small, degraded remnants within the agricultural region of the Tasmanian Midlands. It is only known from one or two plants at most subpopulations, and has not been located at three of these for over 20 years. Population trends are difficult to discern due to limited monitoring and seasonal fluctuations, but ongoing declines are projected due to land clearing and poor habitat quality, with limited funding available for recovery efforts.

### Conservation status

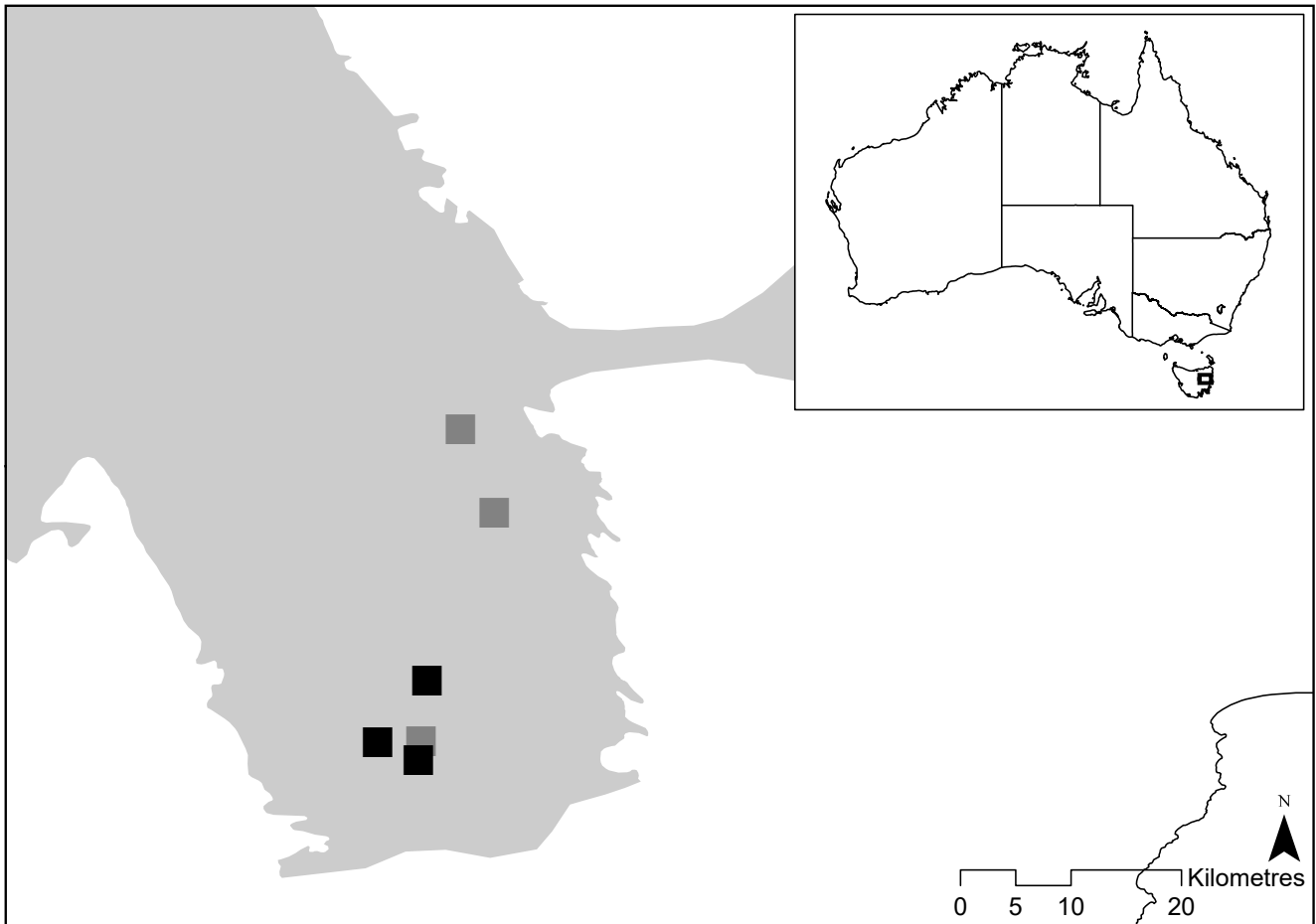
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Threatened Species Act 1995</i>                                   | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Deciduous, terrestrial orchid to 50 cm tall with a single bright green leaf 10-15 cm long with a red-purple base (Jones 1998). Inflorescence a spike 6-15 cm long of 10-25 fragrant flowers with prominent white petals 16-20 mm long and 17-25 mm wide (Jones 1998). The labellum has intensely crinkled margins (Jones 1998). *Prasophyllum tunbridgense* is part of the *Prasophyllum patens/truncatum* complex and could be confused with *P. milfordense* and *P. truncatum*, but is distinguished by its larger, more closely-spaced flowers, longer and wider petals with flared upper margins, and a less sharply recurved labellum (Threatened Species Section 2010).

### Distribution

*Prasophyllum tunbridgense* is only known from the Tunbridge-Campbell Town area in the Tasmanian Northern Midlands bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment 2020).



Current distribution of *Prasophyllum tunbridgense* in the Tasmanian Northern Midlands bioregion (shaded grey) of Tasmania, including subpopulations known to be extant (black squares) and those not seen for >19 years (grey squares) that are possibly extinct (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DPIPWE 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Prasophyllum tunbridgense* is currently known from <50 mature individuals in three subpopulations, 95% of which occur at Township Lagoon. The population has declined from <140 individuals in 2010. Regular monitoring only occurs at one subpopulation (Township Lagoon) and indicates an apparent decline (TSS 2010; Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2016). However, longer-term monitoring is required as the species can persist dormant underground, especially during dry conditions (M Wapstra pers.comm. 2020). Subpopulations may also still occur at three additional sites where it has not been detected for 31 years (Tunbridge cutting), 23 years (Campbell Town north) and 19 years (Campbell Town Golf Course; A Crane pers.comm. 2019). The habitat remains suitable at Campbell Town (north) and the species may emerge after sufficient rainfall (M Wapstra pers.comm. 2019).

Potential habitat (remnant native grassland) is widespread but severely fragmented, and almost wholly restricted to private land (M Wapstra pers.comm. 2019). Few targeted surveys have occurred, particularly on private land during the four-week flowering period (M Wapstra pers.comm. 2019). Additional subpopulations probably exist, but are almost certainly small and in degraded grazing paddocks (M Wapstra pers.comm. 2019).

*Prasophyllum tunbridgense* monitoring data, 1988-2018 (DPIPWE 2020; TSS 2010; TSSC 2016; A Crane, M Wapstra pers.comm. 2019)

| Subpopulation (tenure)                                                    | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                            | Trend                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Township Lagoon (nature reserve and private property)                   | 1999: 85<br>2007: 14<br>2008: 10<br>2009: 4<br>2011: 30<br>2018: 29 | Decreasing                                                        |
| 2 Tunbridge Tier Road (private property)                                  | 1995: 1<br>2001: 1                                                  | Unknown                                                           |
| 3 Tunbridge cutting (road reserve)                                        | 1988: present<br>2017: 0                                            | Possibly extinct (not detected for 31 years)                      |
| 4 Tunbridge north, Wetmore (private property with conservation covenant)  | 1999: 45<br>2007: 9<br>2017: 2                                      | Decreasing                                                        |
| 5 Campbell Town Golf Course (private property with conservation covenant) | 2000: 2<br>2017: 0                                                  | Possibly extinct (only 1-2 plants detected, and not for 19 years) |

## Habitat and ecology

*Prasophyllum tunbridgense* occurs on well-drained basaltic loams in native grassland dominated by *Themeda triandra* and *Austrostipa* spp. (TSS 2010). The species occurs in one of the driest regions of Tasmania, with 500 mm annual rainfall (TSS 2010). Several associated species are also threatened including *Dianella amoena*, *Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *tricolor*, *Pterostylis commutata*, *Pultenaea prostrata*, *Stackhousia subterranea*, *Scleranthus diander*, *Scleranthus fasciculatus*, *Velleia paradoxa* and *Vittadinia* spp. (TSS 2010).

Flowering occurs in October-November, and in the absence of fire (Jones *et al.* 1999). Insects including native bees, wasps and beetles feed on the nectar and pollinate the flowers (TSS 2010). Plants persist as a dormant tuber over summer, emerging in early winter (TSS 2010). The length of time plants can persist in a dormant state is not known, but could be many years.

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                    | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 65 km <sup>2</sup>                          | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | Medium      |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 16 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.02 km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | Medium      |
| No. of mature individuals     | <50                                         | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | Medium      |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 6 (3 known to be extant)                    | Medium      |
| Trend                         | (all threats)<br>Decreasing                 | Medium      |
| No. of subpopulations         | 6 (3 known to be extant)                    | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | Medium      |
| Generation length             | Unknown                                     | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                              | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                         | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Inferred and projected                      | Medium      |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                     |
| B1ab(i-v)      | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; and continuing decline inferred and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i,ii)      | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline projected; <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation; and 90-100% (95%) of mature individuals in 1 subpopulation.                                                         |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                 |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past and Ongoing</i>          | Majority | Very rapid | High          | Land-use change, primarily conversion of grassland to pasture, has resulted in the decline and fragmentation of available habitat. The species is now severely fragmented and extremely vulnerable to any localised activities or impacts. Small remnant patches have typically been left along fence lines, paddock corners and on rises within paddocks and these are now being actively cleared under irrigation schemes, often without threatened flora assessments (M Wapstra pers.comm. 2019), |
| Grazing (domestic stock)<br><i>Ongoing</i>       | Minority | Rapid      | Medium        | <i>Prasophyllum tunbridgense</i> is vulnerable to grazing by domestic stock, especially sheep. Defoliation of flowering parts and leaves has been observed, and may be responsible for declines at sites on private land (TSSC 2016)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                 | Majority | Slow       | Medium        | Invasive weeds are present in the habitat of <i>P. tunbridgense</i> . Invasive weeds increase competition and alter fuel loads and thus fire regimes (TSS 2017).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing (?)</i> | Unknown  | Unknown    | Unknown       | Fire is an important driver of abundance for many ground orchids (TSS 2017). <i>Prasophyllum tunbridgense</i> can flower in the absence of fire (TSSC 2016), but the impact of fire on long-term population trends is not well-understood (TSS 2017).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Altered hydrology<br><i>Future</i>               | Majority | Unknown    | Unknown       | Irrigation is increasing within the habitat of <i>P. tunbridgense</i> , which occurs within one of the driest regions of Tasmania (M Wapstra pers.comm. 2019). Irrigation alters watertables and may impact the ecology of remnant habitat for this species.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Future</i>      | Minority | Rapid      | Low           | Two subpopulations occur on roadsides and are vulnerable to maintenance activities. The subpopulations are managed by the Department of State Growth, although plants have been absent at these sites for a number of years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>                  | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | The species has not been detected at three sites for >19 years, although it may persist as an underground tuber until favourable conditions for reproduction occur. It is not known how long this species can persist in a dormant state, and projected climatic changes may exacerbate declines (Grose <i>et al.</i> 2015).                                                                                                                                                                         |



## Current management

- There is a recovery plan (Threatened Species Section 2017), Listing Statement (TSS 2010) and conservation advice (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2016) for this species. The recovery plan clearly outlines required recovery actions and costs for conservation activities over the next 10 years, although remains unfunded.
- One subpopulation is partially protected in Township Lagoon Nature Reserve, while two subpopulations occur on land under conservation covenants (TSS 2017).
- No translocations have been undertaken although seed has been collected (TSS 2017).

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Protect habitat of known subpopulations in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Establish *ex situ* subpopulation to spread extinction risk and supply plants for translocation if feasible.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Priority     |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Population surveys                         | Conduct targeted surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations.<br>Monitor subpopulations to determine trends in response to management actions and threats. Given seasonal fluctuations, time-series monitoring for a period of >50 years is probably required to accurately capture population trends (M Wapstra pers.comm. 2019). | High<br>High |
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including mycorrhizal associations, disturbance requirements, impact of drought and habitat suitability for translocations.                                                                                                                                                                     | High         |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Investigate the viability of translocation for the species including seed germination and propagation trials. Identify areas of suitable habitat on secure tenure for translocation.                                                                                                                                                                                                | High         |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Determine a suitable fire regime for the species to increase the number of mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | High         |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Priority     |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Habitat protection                         | Protect habitat in conservation agreements. Fence known subpopulations and high value habitat to protect from grazing impacts.                                                                                                                                                                         | High<br>High |
| Invasive weeds                             | Continue to control invasive weeds within known subpopulations and in other high value habitat.                                                                                                                                                                                                        | High         |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Collect and store seed and mycorrhiza for long-term storage at the Tasmanian Seedbank Conservation Centre.<br>Establish an <i>ex situ</i> population representing maximum range of genetic diversity in preparation for future translocations to secure tenure, and/or to augment wild subpopulations. | High<br>High |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Implement suitable fire regime to habitat with extant and historic subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | High         |

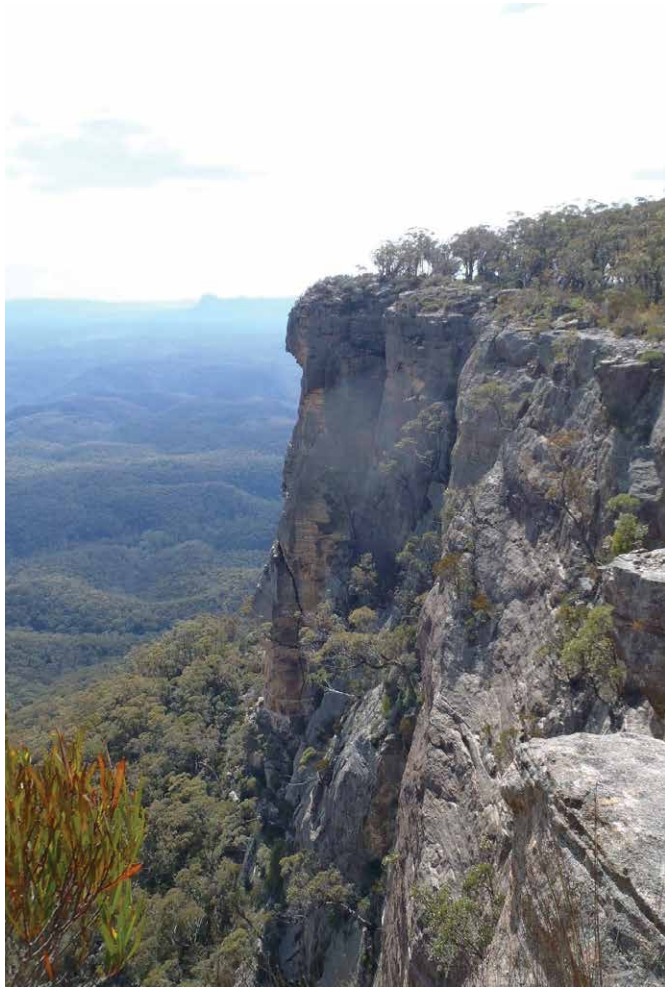
## Experts consulted

Nigel Swarts, Oberon Carter, Mark Wapstra and Andrew Crane.

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## *Pultenaea* sp. Genowlan Point (NSW 417813) [FABACEAE] Genowlan pultenaea



*Pultenaea* sp. Genowlan Point leaves and flowers (top left), plant in full flower (bottom left) and cliff habitat (right; images: David Coote).

### Overview

*Pultenaea* sp. Genowlan Point is an undescribed species related to *P. glabra* that was first recorded in 1997. The single cliff-top population has declined dramatically due to herbivore grazing, recreational impacts and prolonged dry conditions. Abundance has increased from eight to 40 mature individuals due to fencing, although recruitment remains low. The population is also vulnerable to cliff fall associated with nearby mining activity.

### Conservation status

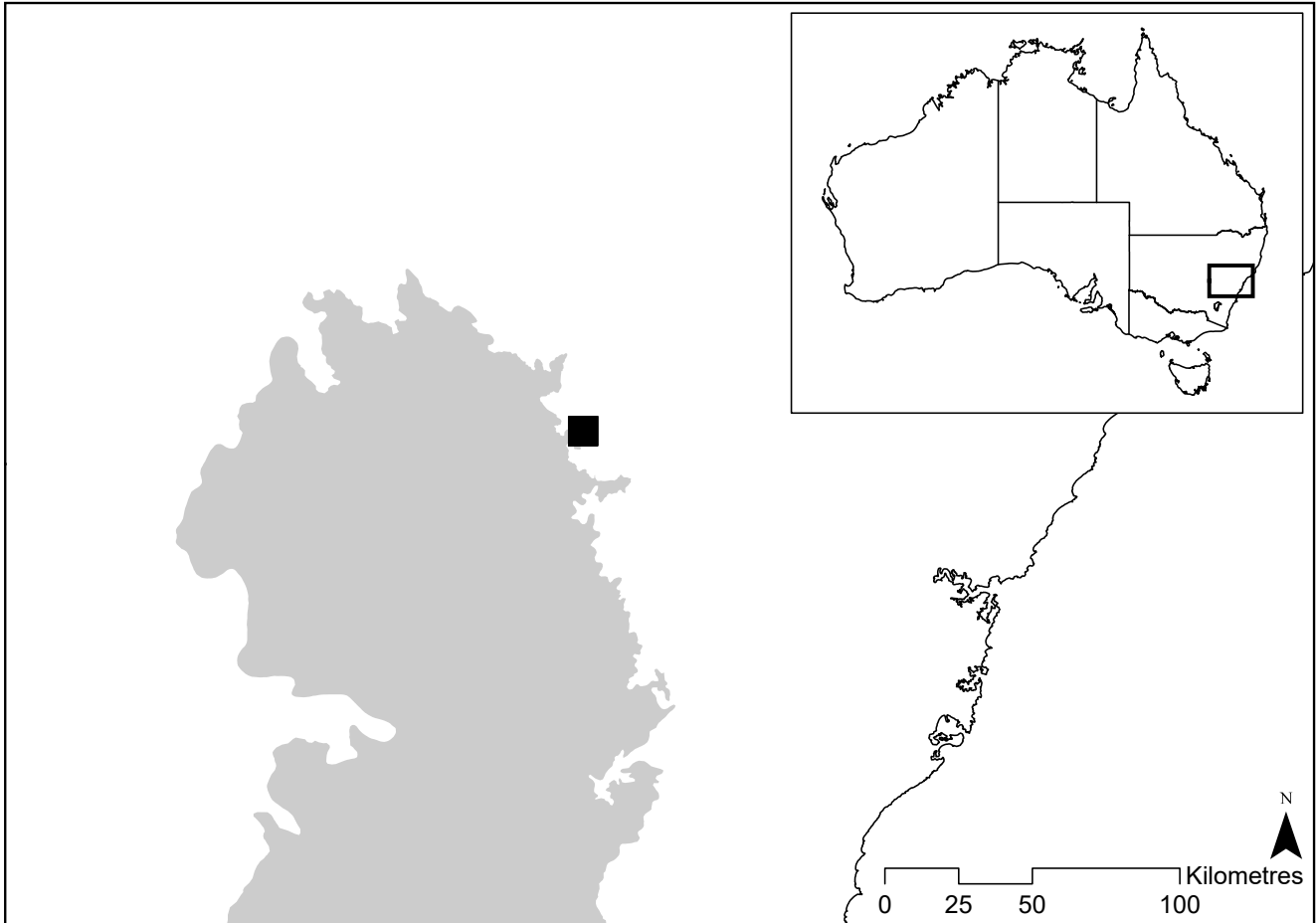
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Erect shrub to 0.5 m tall with smooth stems and alternate, narrow-obovate leaves 1–2 cm long and 1–2 mm wide (Raffan and Goeth 2010). Stipules occur at the leaf bases and the leaves have pointed tips and incurved margins. Inflorescence is terminal and grows into a leafy shoot with yellow flowers that subtend the leaves. Fruit is a turgid pod to 5 mm long. It is part of the *P. glabra* complex, which is subject to ongoing research, but differs from *P. glabra* in its smaller height, deep red keel petal, and flowers that terminate in a leafy bud (Raffan and Goeth 2010).

## Distribution

*Pultenaea* sp. Genowlan Point is known only from the Genowlan Mountain mesa in the Muggi Murum-ban State Conservation Area north of Lithgow, in the South Eastern Highlands bioregion of New South Wales (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020a). The species is not considered severely fragmented as it occurs in contiguous remnant habitat where dispersal can readily occur (IUCN 2019).



Current distribution (black square) of *Pultenaea* sp. Genowlan Point in the South Eastern Highlands bioregion (shaded grey) in New South Wales (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; NSW DPIE 2020a).

## Population estimate and trends

Only six individuals of *Pultenaea* sp. Genowlan Point were recorded when it was first located, however further searching in 1999 revealed 62 plants (Raffan and Goeth 2010). Annual surveys from 2002 to 2010 demonstrate the population declined from 84 to 15 mature individuals (Raffan and Goeth 2010). A slow recovery has been observed since a fence was installed in 2013, with 32 plants observed in 2014, increasing again to 40 mature individuals in 2019 (D Coote pers. comm. 2019). This slow recovery is possibly due to drought conditions, and further declines due to low recruitment are predicted regardless of fencing (D Coote pers.comm. 2019). Overall, a population reduction of >50% has been observed within 17 years, due to a combination of threats that simultaneously affect all individuals (one location). Targeted surveys have been conducted across the range of the species and it is unlikely additional subpopulations exist.

## Habitat and ecology

*Pultenaea* sp. Genowlan Point occurs on well-drained, shallow and stony soils adjacent to a cliff edge amongst sparse montane heath (Raffan and Goeth 2010). It is associated with open *Eucalyptus sparsifolia* forest with a shrubby understorey of *Acacia obtusifolia*, *Astrotricha obovata*, *Callitris rhomboidea*, *Calytrix tetragona*, *Comesperma ericinum*, *Entolasia stricta*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Isopogon dawsonii*, *Lepidosperma urophorum*, *Leptospermum trinervium*, *L. polygalifolium*, *Leucopogon muticus*, *Monotoca scoparia*, *Persoonia longifolia*, *Philotheca myoporoides*, *Platysace lanceolata*, *Pseudanthus divaricatissimus*, *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*, *Xanthosia pilosa* and *Zieria laevigata* (Raffan and Goeth 2010).

In the past, the ecology of *Pultenaea* sp. Genowlan Point has been inferred from closely-related species (Raffan and Goeth 2010). Current knowledge indicates the species is killed by fire, which also stimulates germination of soil-stored seed. Germination can also occur in the absence of fire (D Coote pers.comm. 2019). Further research is required to determine whether this is due to degradation of the hard seed coat over time, scarification of the seed coat or an ant-related mechanism (D Coote pers.comm. 2019). Some evidence indicates the species can also regenerate from subterranean structures after browsing (D Coote pers.comm. 2019).

Flowering occurs from August to November with fruiting until January. Flowers are likely insect pollinated and seeds are dispersed by ants. Longevity is likely to be >20 years, while the shortest juvenile period observed is four years (D Coote pers.comm. 2019). Generation length is estimated at 8 years.

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                    | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.0015 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.0015 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | 40                                          | Low         |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| No. locations (key threat)    | 1 (all threats)                             | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                      | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 1                                           | High        |
| Trend                         | Stable                                      | High        |
| Generation length             | 8 years                                     | Medium      |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                              | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | No                                          | Medium      |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                      | High        |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion  | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A2a             | EN: >50% reduction observed within 3 generations (52.4% from 2002-2019); causes may not have ceased, are not well-understood and may not be reversible; based on direct observation.                  |
| B1+2ab(i-iii,v) | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; 1 location; and continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)          | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                             |
| D               | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                           |
| E               | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                          |



## Threats

| Threat and timing                            | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grazing<br><i>Suspended</i>                  | Majority | Rapid      | Medium        | In 2003, 41% of plants were defoliated by goats, and this was exacerbated with ongoing dry years in 2004 and 2005 (Raffan and Goeth 2010). Vertebrate herbivores have been successfully excluded with fencing since 2013, although breaches do occasionally occur (D Coote pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                             |
| Recreational activities<br><i>Suspended</i>  | Majority | Rapid      | Medium        | Vehicle and foot traffic have damaged individuals (Raffan and Goeth 2010). In addition to exclusion fencing, mesh cages were installed around the most vulnerable individuals but recovery has been slow. Vehicle access has been stopped via progressive iterations of barrier fencing. The potential for accidental or deliberate damage to individuals remains, although evidence of this has not been observed since 2012 (D Coote pers.comm. 2019). |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | <i>Pultenaea</i> sp. Genowlan Point is probably fire sensitive and recruits from soil-stored seed after fire. Appropriately-timed fire is required for the species to reach reproductive maturity and contribute to the seedbank, and regenerate from seed following fire (Raffan and Goeth 2010). Currently, the absence of fire may be limiting recruitment as mature individuals senesce.                                                             |
| Extractive industry<br><i>Future</i>         | Whole    | Very rapid | Medium        | An extension of mine operations by Centennial Coal under the Genowlan-Airly Mesa has been approved, which is likely to increase the risk of cliff falls in the area. Any level of cliff fall, even natural rates, threaten the population.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Stochastic events<br><i>Future</i>           | Whole    | Rapid      | Medium        | Due to the small population size and restricted distribution this species is vulnerable to stochastic events including cliff fall and drought, which is associated with reduced seed-set, mortality, borer infestations and beetle attack (Raffan and Goeth 2011).                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>              | Whole    | Slow       | Low           | Climatic drying may increase the impacts of stochastic events such as prolonged droughts or inappropriate fire regimes (Raffan and Goeth 2011).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Future</i>        | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | Phytophthora has not been recorded in the area and the susceptibility of the species is unknown, but infection is considered a potential threat (NSW DPIE 2020b).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (Raffan and Goeth 2010; Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2004). Conservation actions have been prioritised under the New South Wales Saving our Species program (NSW DPIE 2020b) and these are being implemented; rain has interrupted plan burn trials on multiple occasions (D Coote pers.comm. 2019).
- Taxonomic research is being undertaken by Matt Renner (Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria) to better understand the *P. glabra* complex, including *P. sp. Genowlan*, *P. olinda* and *P. sp. Wolgan Cliffs* (D Coote pers.comm. 2019).
- Since 2011, the species has been protected in the Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area.



- In 2013, the population was fenced and larger individuals were caged to reduce impacts of herbivores and human foot traffic. Abundance initially increased and stabilised thereafter, without marked recovery. Cages are being upgraded under the Saving our Species strategy (NSW DPIE 2020b). Vehicle tracks have been progressively closed to prevent disturbance (D Coote pers.comm. 2019).
- As of 2019, the Australian Botanic Gardens (Mount Annan) hold ~2500 seeds following collections since 2012. An attempt to establish an *ex situ* subpopulation failed in 2009 (Raffan and Goeth 2010), but future translocations are planned (NSW DPIE 2020b).

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulation.
- Improve habitat quality of known subpopulation.
- Establish a sufficient *ex situ* insurance seed collection and determine potential sites for translocations on secure tenure.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via translocation.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Taxonomy                                   | Formally describe the taxa to consolidate knowledge on the species.                                                                                                                                                                   | High     |
| Population monitoring                      | Continue monitoring to better understand population demographics and threat impacts and response to recovery actions.                                                                                                                 | High     |
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Undertake research to better understand the fire ecology and seed biology of the species. Determine a suitable fire regime for the species to increase the number of mature individuals.                                              | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Determine recipient sites for translocations on secure tenure.                                                                                                                                                                        | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                         | Maintain fencing and track closures to protect population.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Determine and implement an appropriate fire regime to increase the population abundance in the long-term.                                                                                                                                                                                                        | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Continue and expand <i>ex situ</i> seed collection to represent maximum range of genetic diversity possible. Ensure seed collection is sufficiently abundant for future translocations. Undertake surveys of potential recipient sites, followed by translocation to suitable sites to mitigate extinction risk. | High     |
| Herbivory                                  | Maintain and enhance measures (fencing/caging/culling) to exclude vertebrate browsers, especially goats, from population.                                                                                                                                                                                        | High     |
| Introduced pathogens                       | Monitor for signs of phytophthora infection, and manage disease hygiene at site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | High     |

## Experts consulted

David Coote.

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## *Rhodamnia maideniana* C.T.WHITE [MYRTACEAE]

### Smooth scrub turpentine



Healthy *Rhodamnia maideniana* flowers (left; image: Glenn Leiper) and new foliage infected with myrtle rust (right; image: Geoff Pegg).

### Overview

*Rhodamnia maideniana* has declined rapidly since the invasion of myrtle rust *Austropuccinia psidii* in 2010, which now occurs throughout its distribution. The species is on a rapid extinction trajectory as the pathogen kills flowers, fruit and seeds, thereby limiting the capacity of the species to reproduce. *Rhodamnia maideniana* requires urgent germplasm collection to conserve genetic diversity, facilitate research and support future reintroductions.

### Conservation status

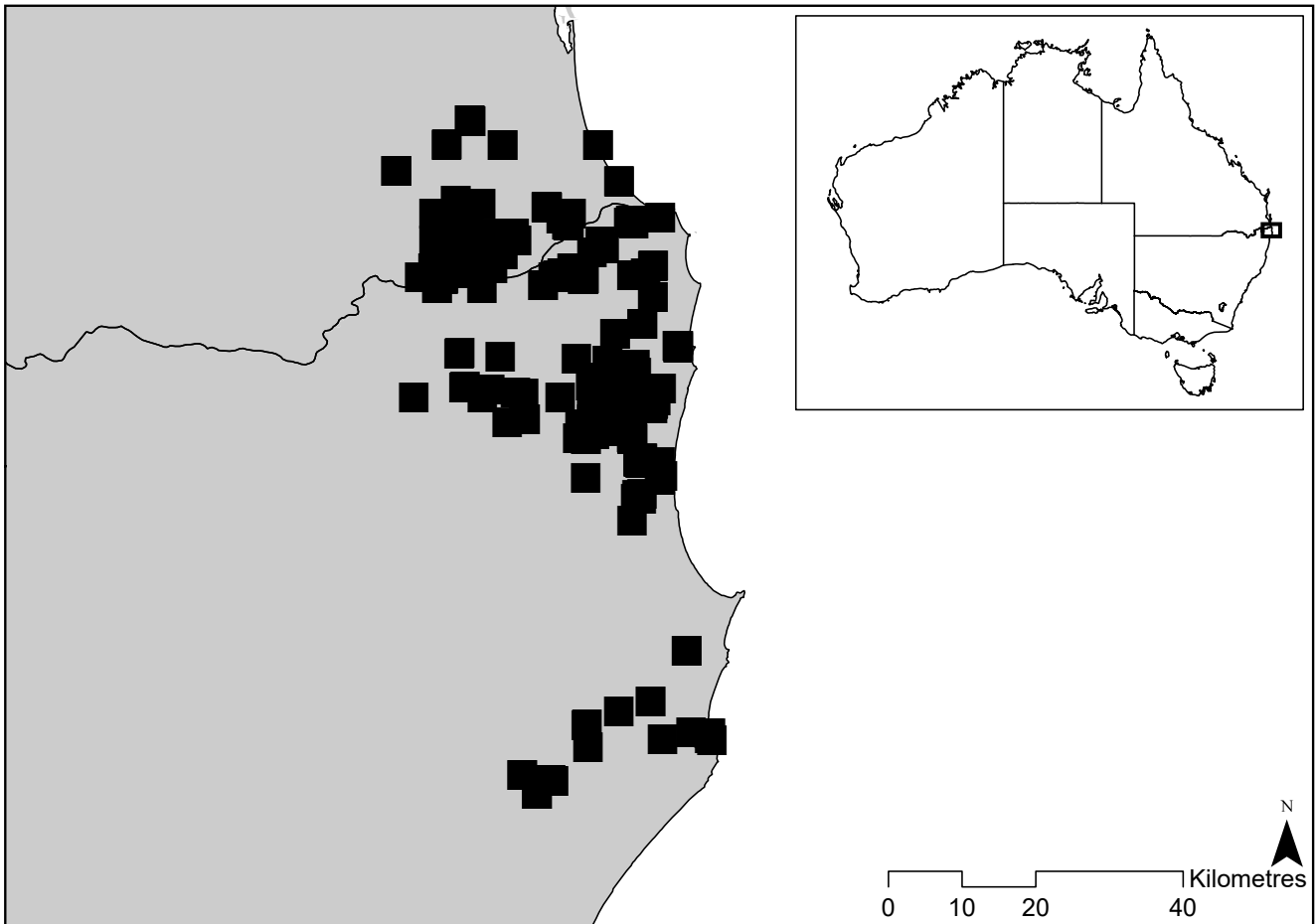
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Not listed                         |
| <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)</i>                      | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Erect shrub or tree to 5 m with smooth-flaky brown bark (Snow 2007). Leaves are elliptic to ovate, with a cuneate base and acuminate apex, 40-85 mm long and 13-42 mm wide (Snow 2007). Lamina is concolorous to slightly discolorous, glabrous above and sometimes hairy below along the midrib, with sparse to abundant oil glands (Snow 2007). Lateral primary veins are generally located <3 mm from the edge of the leaf margin at the midpoint of the lamina. Inflorescence of 1-3 pink-white flowers occur solitary or in pairs, and may be axillary or terminal. Fruit is a globose, hairless, purple-black berry 6.5-8.5 mm long and 6-8 mm wide, with 2-13 yellow-brown seeds 3-5 mm long (Snow 2007). *Rhodamnia maideniana* is similar to *R. glabrescens* and *R. arenaria*, but the latter two species have primary lateral veins that are usually >3 mm from the edge of the leaf margin at the midpoint of the lamina (compared with <3 mm as in *R. maideniana*). These three species also have distinct geographic ranges (Snow 2007).

### Distribution

*Rhodamnia maideniana* occurs in sub-coastal rainforest from the Springbrook area in Queensland to Ballina in New South Wales, within the South Eastern Queensland bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Fensham *et al.* 2020; New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020; Queensland Herbarium 2020a,b). *Rhodamnia maideniana* is severely fragmented as all occurrences comprise a small number of trees, while establishment and survival after any recolonisation event is hindered by myrtle rust (IUCN 2019).



Distribution of *Rhodamnia maideniana* (black squares) in the South Eastern Queensland bioregion (shaded grey) of Queensland and New South Wales (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; Fensham *et al.* 2020; NSW DPIE 2020; QH 2020a,b). As myrtle rust occurs throughout the range of the species (Makinson 2018), the species is now absent or very unhealthy at many of these sites.

## Population estimate and trends

*Rhodamnia maideniana* was once 'very common' in the understorey of regrowth rainforest (QH 2020; L Weber pers. comm. 2020). It remained common throughout the Tallebudgera Valley during field surveys in 2014, but has since declined rapidly due to myrtle rust (Pegg *et al.* 2017). The largest subpopulation is estimated as ca. 150 individuals in Springbrook National Park (J Radford-Smith pers. comm. 2020). The number of 'mature individuals' (IUCN 2019) is inferred to be <250 (and <50 for each subpopulation) due to reproductive suppression by myrtle rust. *Rhodamnia maideniana* reproduces sexually, and myrtle rust has caused a reduction in the abundance and density of parent plants and thus outcrossing probability, reduced flowering rates due to shoot death and flower bud infection, and reduced seed-set due to plant stress and direct infection of fruits (B Makinson pers. comm. 2020).

## Habitat and ecology

*Rhodamnia maideniana* occurs on slopes and in gullies at 40-900 m altitude, amongst subtropical rainforest on soils derived from basalt and other volcanics, including red-brown loams and clay loams (Snow 2007).

The species is a common component of rainforest understorey (Pegg *et al.* 2017), but is also found growing in disturbed fragments, along edges of simple to complex notophyll vineforest (AVH 2020). Associated species include *Davidsonia* sp., *Alphitonia petriei*, *Planchonella australis*, *Elattostachys nervosa*, *Endiandra globosa*, *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, *Archidendron muellerianum*, *Syzygium smithii* and *Elaeocarpus obovatus* (AVH 2020).

The ecology of *R. maideniana* is not well-documented. Flowering occurs from November to March, with fruiting throughout the year (Snow 2007). Like other rainforest Myrtaceae, the flowers are presumably pollinated by insects including Hymenoptera, Coleoptera and flies of the suborder Brachycera, while the fleshy fruits are predominantly dispersed by fauna including birds (Williams and Adam 2012). It is likely the species becomes reproductively mature at 4-5 years under ideal conditions, and may live for at least 50 years (P Forster pers.comm. 2020). *Rhodamnia maideniana* is a confirmed host to the introduced pathogen myrtle rust (Pegg *et al.* 2014).

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                                        | Estimate                                     | Reliability    |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual)<br>Trend | 2468 km <sup>2</sup> (unknown)<br>Decreasing | Low<br>High    |
| Area of occupancy (actual)<br>Trend    | 392 km <sup>2</sup> (unknown)<br>Decreasing  | Low<br>High    |
| No. of mature individuals<br>Trend     | <250<br>Decreasing                           | Low<br>High    |
| No. of locations (key threat)<br>Trend | 1 (introduced pathogens)<br>Decreasing       | Medium<br>High |
| No. of subpopulations<br>Trend         | Unknown<br>Decreasing                        | Low<br>High    |
| Generation length                      | >20 years                                    | Medium         |
| Extreme fluctuations                   | No                                           | High           |
| Severely fragmented                    | Yes                                          | High           |
| Continuing decline                     | Observed and estimated                       | High           |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A4e            | CR: >80% reduction observed (2009-2020) and estimated (+100 years); based on decline in AOO, EOO, habitat quality; and effects of introduced pathogens.                                                                                                             |
| B1ab(i-v)      | EN: EOO <5000 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <500 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; continuing decline observed and estimated in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                                                           |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                       | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past and Ongoing</i> | Minority | Rapid      | Medium        | Land clearing (for example the decimation of the Big Scrub; Parkes <i>et al.</i> 2012) has resulted in the decline and fragmentation of <i>R. maideniana</i> habitat. Land clearing for agriculture and urbanisation is ongoing (Evans 2016), although many subpopulations are protected in national park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Ongoing</i>  | Whole    | Very rapid | High          | Myrtle rust causes dieback of young shoots and reproductive organs in <i>R. maideniana</i> , and occurs throughout the species' distribution (Makinson 2018). Only one of 100 individuals surveyed in Springbrook NP in 2020 were unaffected by the disease (J Radford-Smith pers.comm. 2020). At Tallebudgera Valley, tree mortality increased from 0% to 29.8% from 2014-2016, while canopy transparency increased from 69% to 91% (Pegg <i>et al.</i> 2017). Viable seed production has been reduced by >90% based on extensive surveys throughout the species' reproductive period (J Radford-Smith pers.comm. 2020). Similarly, a single ripe fruit was produced from 200 flowers (L Weber pers. comm. 2019); equating to a 95% reduction in seed production due to myrtle rust. |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>         | Unknown  | Unknown    | Unknown       | Myrtle rust infects foliage of other rainforest Myrtaceae recovering from drought-stress (J Radford-Smith, L Weber pers.comm. 2020) and fire (Fernandez Winzer <i>et al.</i> 2020). Myrtle rust infection incidence and severity is influenced by climatic conditions including temperature, rainfall and humidity (Makinson 2018). More frequent droughts, intense rainfall events, extreme temperatures and fire weather are predicted under climate change (Dowdy <i>et al.</i> 2015), but the interaction with myrtle rust is unknown.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## Current management

- A National Action Plan (Makinson *et al.* 2020) has been developed through extensive consultation and provides a national expert consensus for the conservation of species affected by myrtle rust. *Rhodamnia maideniana* is listed as an 'emergency' priority species in the NAP (Makinson *et al.* 2020).
- The species occurs in several national parks that are managed for conservation (Lamington NP, Springbrook NP, Mooball NP and Wollumbin NP). The species also occurs in Currumbin Hill Conservation Park.
- Limited targeted surveys have been undertaken in Queensland and NSW to determine population trends in response to myrtle rust infection.
- Cuttings have been propagated from several localities in Qld and NSW and are held at the Australian Botanic Gardens Mt Annan.
- Some current research on related species and on the genomics of the myrtle rust pathogen are expected to be informative of the mechanism of resistance and susceptibility in this species (B Makinson pers.comm. 2020).

## Conservation objectives

- Establish awareness, funding and leadership for a long-term and coordinated response to the impact of myrtle rust on *R. maideniana*.
- Identify feasible options for maintaining wild subpopulations of *R. maideniana*.
- Establish and maintain a viable *ex situ* collection of *R. maideniana* as an ongoing conservation resource.
- Better understand the ecology of myrtle rust as it relates to *R. maideniana* and the ecosystems within which it occurs.



## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Undertake field surveys as recommend by the NAP; document myrtle rust incidence, impact, resistance among plants, demographic trends and related ecological data.                                                            | High     |
|                                            | Undertake rapid field surveys and also establish permanent monitoring plots to capture time-series trends and document decline rates.                                                                                        | High     |
|                                            | Monitor subpopulations in response to threat abatement actions.                                                                                                                                                              | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Undertake research to determine the most effective methods of <i>ex situ</i> germplasm capture and storage (seed, tissue culture, vegetative).                                                                               | High     |
|                                            | Collate a national inventory of cultivated specimens (botanic gardens, private collections) that can be protected by fungicide, diversified by further sampling and used for seed production.                                | High     |
|                                            | Use <i>ex situ</i> conservation collection to undertake research (within the NAP framework where possible), including trials for more rust-tolerant genotypes that may be used as a basis for reintroduction translocations. | High     |
| Introduced pathogens                       | Undertake research into biocontrol methods for myrtle rust.                                                                                                                                                                  | Medium   |
|                                            | Undertake research to identify possible management actions to maintain the wild population of <i>R. maideniana</i> , such as selective fungicide application.                                                                | Medium   |
| Life history, ecology and research         | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species to guide conservation actions.                                                                                                           | Medium   |
|                                            | Investigate indirect impacts of myrtle rust on habitat of <i>R. maideniana</i> , including ecological interactions with other threatening processes such as fire, drought, invasive weeds and climate change.                | Medium   |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Standardise population monitoring data methods and coordinate data storage at a national scale.                                                                                                                                                                                    | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Urgently secure germplasm for <i>ex situ</i> conservation efforts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | High     |
|                                            | Maintain and expand secure (threat-managed) and genetically representative <i>ex situ</i> collections for seed collection and to support ongoing research efforts, including identification of genotypes less-susceptible to myrtle rust for future reintroduction translocations. | High     |
| Extension and awareness                    | Seek Indigenous stakeholder input and participation in conservation actions.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | High     |
|                                            | Raise awareness of the impact of myrtle rust on the species with local landholders and other stakeholders to monitor and protect the species                                                                                                                                       | High     |
| Life history, ecology and research         | Assemble botanical and ecological knowledge of the species (including seedling photographs to guide field impact surveys) in a repository to expedite research, conservation planning and rapid surveys.                                                                           | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Bob Makinson, Geoff Pegg, Glenn Leiper, Julian Radford-Smith, Lui Weber and Rod Fensham.

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## *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* (G.Don) Benth. [MYRTACEAE] Native guava



Healthy fruit (bottom left) and flowers (top left) of *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* (images: Glenn Leiper) and mature trees with severe dieback due to myrtle rust (right; image: Boris Laffineur).

### Overview

Once a common inhabitant of rainforest edges and coastal sand-dune communities, *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* is at risk of imminent extinction due to the introduced pathogen myrtle rust *Austropuccinia psidii*. A marked decline was first documented in 2014, shortly after the rust became naturalised in eastern Australia and no fertile fruit have been observed on wild plants during field surveys since. At most sites, the species is now locally extinct and the species requires urgent germplasm collection to conserve genetic diversity, facilitate research and support reintroductions of rust-tolerant individuals in the future.

### Conservation status

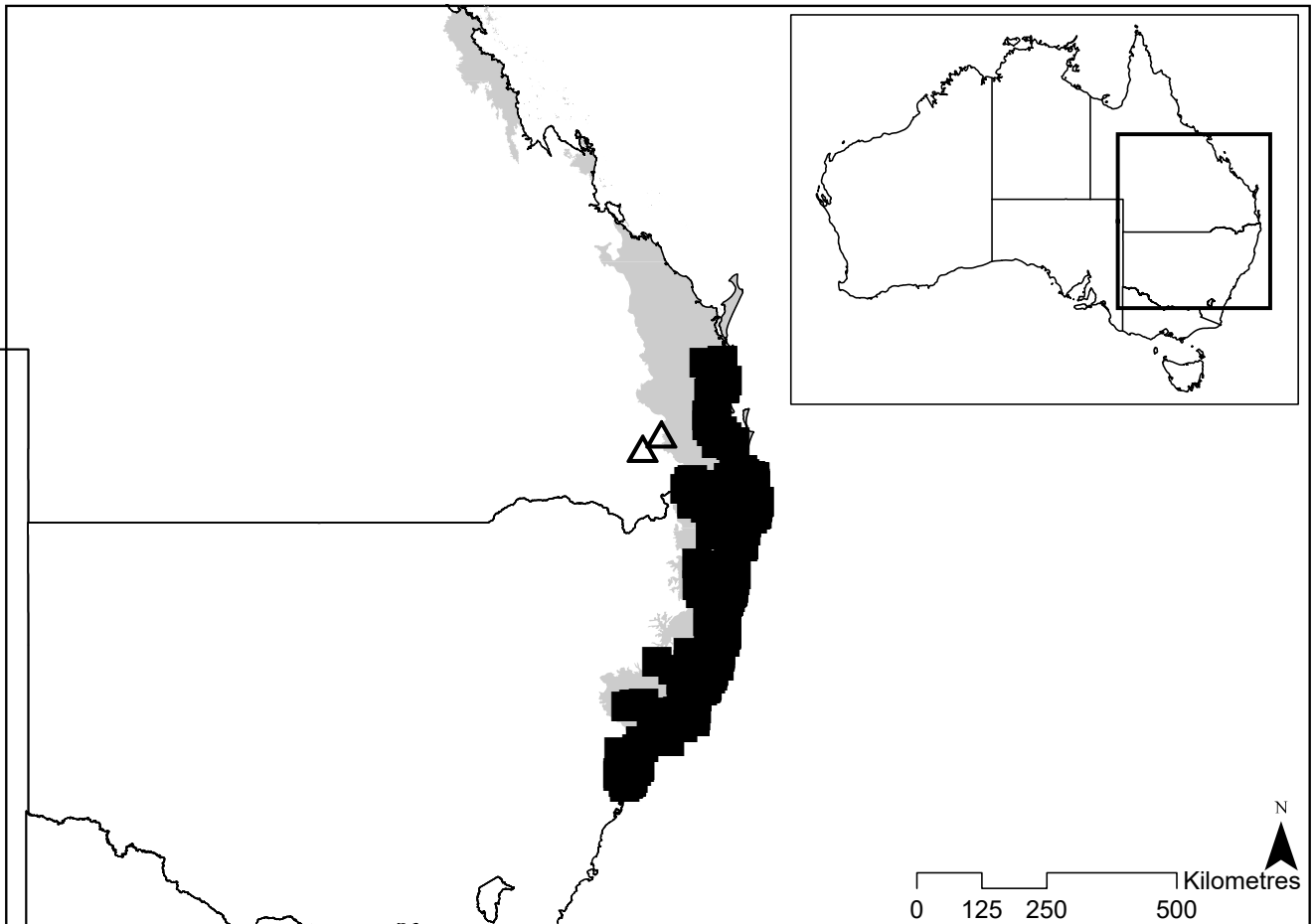
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)</i>                            | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)</i>                      | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

## Brief description

Shrub or small tree to 12 m with wrinkled, flaky, light-brown bark (Scott 1978). Petiole 15-20 mm long and lamina 5-20 cm long and 2.5-6.5 wide (Scott 1978). Leaves ovate-elliptic, ovate-lanceolate or oblong, with an acuminate apex, cuneate base, 7-11 pinnate nerves and lacking an intramarginal vein (Scott 1978). Upper leaf surface glossy dark brown to green, lower surface glabrous or sparsely hairy (Scott 1978). Inflorescence hairy and axillary, with single or branched clusters of 3-5 white flowers that form a 9-flowered raceme up to 6 cm long (Scott 1978). Fruit is a yellow globular berry, 15-25 mm long and 10-15 mm wide, flattened at the apex and hairy, with numerous compressed-reniform seeds 3 mm wide separated by a false septa (Scott 1978).

## Distribution

*Rhodomyrtus psidioides* is known from a widespread distribution along the east coast of Australia from Broken Bay (north of Sydney) in New South Wales to north of Gympie in Queensland. The species occurs in the South Eastern Queensland, NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin bioregions (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Fensham *et al.* 2020b; New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2020a). Given the widespread dieback throughout its range, *R. psidioides* is now severely fragmented, as all subpopulations are small and isolated by large distances, and recolonisation is hindered by habitat change and myrtle rust (IUCN 2019).



*Rhodomyrtus psidioides* (black squares) has exhibited severe dieback at all of the many sites surveyed across its distribution in the South Eastern Queensland, NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin bioregions (shaded grey) of eastern Australia (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; Fensham *et al.* 2020b; NSW DPIE 2020a). The species has been translocated outside its natural range although these subpopulations are not yet self-sustaining (hollow triangles).



## Population estimate and trends

*Rhodomyrtus psidioides* was a very common tree of open rainforest edges, but has undergone a rapid decline due to myrtle rust since 2010 (Pegg *et al.* 2017). In 2014, Carnegie *et al.* (2016) assessed 18 sites from Wambina Nature Reserve (NSW) to Tallebudgera Valley (Qld). Myrtle rust was present at every site, and all but three sites had very high levels of tree mortality. Four sites had 50–75 % mortality, two sites had 95 % mortality, and two sites had 100% mortality (Carnegie *et al.* 2016). Myrtle rust was only likely to have established in these areas 3 years prior to these measurements. A subsequent survey of 66 subpopulations in 2018 failed to locate the species at 23% of sites, 66% were reduced to root suckers, with only 3% having <10% dieback (Fensham *et al.* 2020a). Following this widespread dieback, surveys during 2019–2020 identified several locations where the species persists in NSW; 75% of these were as suckers <1 m tall and the remaining 15% were as mature trees up to 8 m tall (C Stehn pers.comm. 2020). Some of these have produced flowers and fruit, although the viability of seed is unconfirmed (C Stehn pers.comm. 2020).

The number of 'mature individuals' (IUCN 2019) is inferred to be <250 due to reproductive suppression by myrtle rust. *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* reproduces sexually and also asexually via root suckering. Myrtle rust has caused a reduction in the abundance and density of parent plants and thus outcrossing probability, reduced flowering rates due to shoot death and flower bud infection, and reduced seed-set due to plant stress and direct infection of fruits (B Makinson pers.comm. 2020). Myrtle rust has also killed a very large proportion of mature adult stems, and although root suckering can be prolific, the likelihood of suckers reaching reproductive maturity is low; while some survive their first growth season, survival into their third year is very rare (B Makinson pers.comm. 2020).

Two subpopulations were introduced outside the natural range of *R. psidioides* in 2018, where myrtle rust infection was predicted to be less severe. Thirty-seven of 40 plants survived at Highfields (north of Toowoomba) in 2019 (T Collingwood pers.comm. 2020), but have now have heavy myrtle rust infection (R Fensham pers.comm. 2020). Thirty-one of 40 plants survived at Pittsworth in 2019 (T Collingwood pers.comm. 2020), but the long-term survival of the species here is uncertain.

## Habitat and ecology

*Rhodomyrtus psidioides* occurs in a variety of soils and rainforest habitats up to 910 m altitude, but favours open or disturbed rainforest margins (Scott 1978; ALA 2020). It is listed as a characteristic species in the 'Littoral rainforest in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South Easter Corner' bioregions.

Flowering occurs synchronously and often *en masse*, but the species may not flower in years when conditions are unfavourable (Williams and Adam 2012). Flowers have an average life-span of 5 to 7 days, are self-incompatible and pollinated by insects including native bees (*Leioproctus*, *Amphylaeus*, *Heterapoides*, *Homalictus*), beetles (Mordellidae), mirid bugs (Miridae), true bugs (Hemiptera), nocturnally active Nematocera (Scatopsidae, Trickoceridae) and thrips (William and Adams 2010). However, visitation is infrequent and the flowers produce little nectar, and it is possible that the flowers are also wind-pollinated, as the stigma is relatively broad and long, and positioned above the anthers (William and Adams 2010). The fleshy fruits are predominantly dispersed by fauna including birds (Williams and Adam 2012).

*Rhodomyrtus psidioides* is a pioneer species and can reproduce asexually via coppice growth or root suckers. It becomes reproductively mature within 4-5 years under ideal conditions, and as the species can sucker profusely after disturbance, it may live indefinitely (P Forster pers.comm. 2020). *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* is a confirmed host to the introduced pathogen myrtle rust (Pegg *et al.* 2014).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                                        | Estimate                                       | Reliability    |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual)<br>Trend | 90 140 km <sup>2</sup> (unknown)<br>Decreasing | Low<br>High    |
| Area of occupancy (actual)<br>Trend    | 1552 km <sup>2</sup> (unknown)<br>Decreasing   | Low<br>High    |
| No. of mature individuals<br>Trend     | <250<br>Decreasing                             | Low<br>High    |
| No. locations (key threat)<br>Trend    | 1 (introduced pathogens)<br>Decreasing         | Medium<br>High |
| No. of subpopulations<br>Trend         | Unknown<br>Decreasing                          | Low<br>High    |
| Generation length                      | >40 years                                      | Low            |
| Extreme fluctuations                   | No                                             | High           |
| Severely fragmented                    | Yes                                            | High           |
| Continuing decline                     | Observed and estimated                         | High           |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A4e            | CR: >80% reduction observed (2009-2020) and estimated (+100 years); based on decline in AOO, EOO, habitat quality; and effects of introduced pathogens.                                                                                  |
| B2ab(i-v)      | VU: AOO <2000 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; continuing decline observed and estimated in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                                                |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                             |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                       | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past and ongoing</i> | Minority | Rapid      | Medium        | The distribution of <i>R. psidioides</i> coincides with one of the most densely populated regions of Australia. Land clearing (for example the decimation of the Big Scrub (Parkes <i>et al.</i> 2012) has resulted in the decline and fragmentation of available habitat. Many subpopulations occur on the edges of small rainforest remnants. Land clearing for agriculture and urbanisation is ongoing throughout the region (Evans 2016), but many remnant plants occur on protected land.                                            |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Ongoing</i>  | Whole    | Very rapid | High          | <i>Rhodomyrtus psidioides</i> is 'extremely susceptible' to myrtle rust, which kills young and regenerating foliage of adult plants, entire seedlings and fertile organs (Fernandez Winter 2019; Makinson 2018). Within 3 years of myrtle rust invasion, 50-100% of <i>R. psidioides</i> trees in stands were dead (Carnegie <i>et al.</i> 2016) and by 2017, entire stands could not be relocated (Pegg <i>et al.</i> 2017). Some flowers and fruit have been recently located, although viability is unknown (C Stehn pers.comm. 2020). |



| Threat and timing                                   | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Invasive weeds/<br>burn incursion<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Majority | Unknown  | Unknown       | <i>Rhodomyrtus psidioides</i> occurs on rainforest edges and has been replaced by invasive weeds including lantana after dieback (Fernandez Winzer <i>et al.</i> 2020a; Pegg <i>et al.</i> 2017). This competition may reduce re-establishment opportunities, while altering habitat structure and flammability during dry periods (Pegg <i>et al.</i> 2017; Fernandez-Winzer <i>et al.</i> 2020a,b) |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>                     | Unknown  | Unknown  | Unknown       | Myrtle rust infection severity is influenced by climatic conditions including temperature, rainfall and humidity (Makinson 2018). More frequent droughts, intense rainfall events, extreme temperatures and fire weather are predicted under climate change (Dowdy <i>et al.</i> 2015), but the interaction with myrtle rust is unknown.                                                             |

## Current management

- A National Action Plan (Makinson *et al.* 2020) has been developed through extensive consultation and provides a national expert consensus for the conservation of species affected by myrtle rust. *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* is listed as an 'emergency' priority species in the NAP (Makinson *et al.* 2020).
- Current research on related species and on the genomics of the myrtle rust pathogen are expected to be informative about the mechanism of resistance and susceptibility in this species (B Makinson pers.comm. 2020).
- A Saving our Species Strategy has been developed and is being implemented (NSW DPIE 2020b). Extensive monitoring and recovery work has been undertaken in NSW (2018–2020) by Angus Carnegie, NSW DPIE, the Australian Botanic Gardens Mt Annan and the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney (C Stehn pers.comm. 2020). An *ex situ* collection has been established at ABG (Mt Annan) from cuttings, excavated suckers and DNA, representing 80 individuals from 15 sites between Sydney and the NSW/Queensland border. A seed orchard has also been established at ABG (Mt Annan) (Viler and Offord 2020). Germplasm collection is ongoing and dispersed collection arrangements are being investigated. Maurizio Rossetto from the RBGS is leading genetic research. Monitoring of flowering individuals, subsequent fruit set and seed viability will be undertaken in 2020–2021 (C Stehn pers.comm. 2020).
- In Queensland, targeted surveys have been undertaken to determine population trends in response to myrtle rust infection (Fensham *et al.* 2020). Eighty plants grown from rootstock (possibly two genetic clones) were translocated in 2018; with 36 of 40 plants surviving at Highfields and 31 of 40 plants surviving at Pittsworth in 2019 (T Collingwood pers.comm. 2020b). In 2020, myrtle rust had damaged all the growing shoots at Highfields while the disease was not evident at Pittsworth (R Fensham, B Laffineur pers.comm. 2020). Both sites are beyond the natural aridity limit for the species (around 920 mm mean annual rainfall), although significant levels of myrtle rust have been recorded in Highfields under normal rainfall conditions (G Pegg pers.comm. 2020).

## Conservation objectives

- Establish awareness, funding and leadership for a long-term and coordinated response to the impact of myrtle rust on *R. psidioides*.
- Identify feasible options for maintaining wild subpopulations of *R. psidioides*.
- Establish and maintain a viable *ex situ* collection of *R. psidioides* as an ongoing conservation resource.
- Better understand the ecology of myrtle rust as it relates to *R. psidioides* and the ecosystems within which it occurs.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Undertake field surveys as recommend by the NAP; document myrtle rust incidence, impact, resistance among plants, demographic trends and related ecological data.                                                            | High     |
|                                            | Continue monitoring in permanent plots to document time-series trends.                                                                                                                                                       | High     |
|                                            | Monitor subpopulations in response to threat abatement actions.                                                                                                                                                              | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Undertake research to determine the most effective methods of <i>ex situ</i> germplasm capture and storage (seed, tissue culture, vegetative).                                                                               | High     |
|                                            | Collate a national inventory of cultivated specimens (botanic gardens, private collections) that can be protected by fungicide, diversified by further sampling and used for seed production.                                | High     |
|                                            | Use <i>ex situ</i> conservation collection to undertake research (within the NAP framework where possible), including trials for more rust-tolerant genotypes that may be used as a basis for reintroduction translocations. | High     |
| Introduced pathogens                       | Undertake research into biocontrol methods for myrtle rust.                                                                                                                                                                  | Medium   |
|                                            | Undertake research to identify possible management actions to maintain the wild population of <i>R. psidioides</i> , such as selective fungicide application.                                                                | Medium   |
| Life history, ecology and research         | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species to guide conservation actions.                                                                                                           | Medium   |
|                                            | Continue to document indirect impacts of myrtle rust on habitat of <i>R. psidioides</i> , including ecological interactions with other threatening processes such as fire, drought, invasive weeds and climate change.       | Medium   |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Standardise population monitoring data methods and coordinate data storage at a national scale.                                                                                                                                                                                    | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Urgently secure germplasm for <i>ex situ</i> conservation efforts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | High     |
|                                            | Maintain and expand secure (threat-managed) and genetically representative <i>ex situ</i> collections for seed collection and to support ongoing research efforts, including identification of genotypes less-susceptible to myrtle rust for future reintroduction translocations. | High     |
|                                            | Monitor and maintain translocated subpopulations via weeding, watering, mulching, staking of young plants.                                                                                                                                                                         | High     |
| Extension and awareness                    | Seek Indigenous stakeholder input and participation in conservation actions.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | High     |
|                                            | Raise awareness of the impact of myrtle rust on the species with local landholders and other stakeholders to monitor and protect the species                                                                                                                                       | High     |
| Life history, ecology and research         | Assemble fragmented botanical and ecological knowledge of the species (including seedling photographs to guide field impact surveys) in a repository to expedite research, conservation planning and rapid surveys.                                                                | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Bob Makinson, Geoff Pegg, Craig Stehn, Lui Weber, Glenn Leiper, Rod Fensham, Boris Laffineur, Julian-Radford Smith and Teghan Collingwood.

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## *Senecio behrianus* Sond. & F.Muell. ex Sond. [ASTERACEAE] Stiff groundsel



*Senecio behrianus* (clockwise from left) leaves and flowerhead, swampy woodland habitat on private property near Corop, and a translocated plant flowering and spreading via rhizomes at a wetland under a conservation covenant (private property) that receives regular environmental water (images: Damien Cook).

### Overview

*Senecio behrianus* once occurred widely across floodplains and wetlands of south-eastern Australia but was presumed extinct until it was relocated in 1991. It is currently known from seven small wild subpopulations in Victoria. Its habitat has been extensively cleared and altered hydrologically for agriculture, and remnant subpopulations are very small and mostly occur on insecure tenure with ongoing threats. Translocations have been recently implemented to wetlands on secure tenure that receive environmental water, and at several sites plants have established, are flowering profusely and spreading vegetatively.

### Conservation status

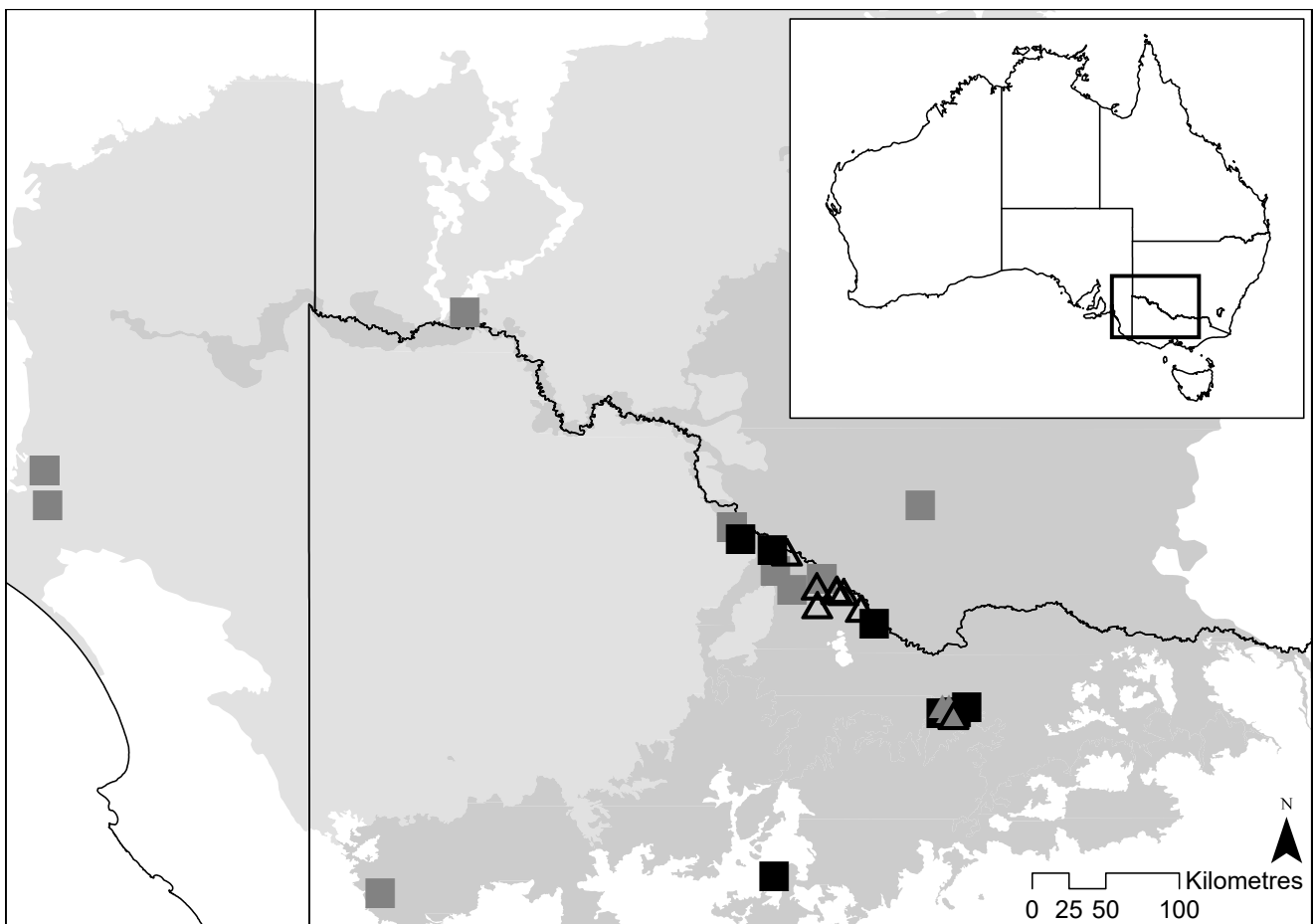
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Vic)                      | Threatened                         |
| Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria               | Endangered                         |
| <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> (SA)                     | Endangered                         |
| <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (NSW)                      | Extinct                            |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

## Brief description

Erect, woolly perennial herb to 1 m tall forming extensive rhizomatous clumps. Leaves are grey-green, linear, 2-8 cm long and 1-5 mm wide. Lamina usually has recurved margins and is initially whiteish-pubescent before becoming glabrous, although the lower surface may remain mealy (Walsh 1999). Small yellow inflorescences are borne in loose clusters at the ends of the stems, each comprised of 6 ray florets and 13-15 disc florets (Walsh 1999). Achenes are dark brown, flattened and 2-2.5 mm long (Walsh 1999).

## Distribution

*Senecio behrianus* was formerly known from a widespread distribution on the floodplains of the Murray Darling river system. It occurred in South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria in the Riverina, Murray Darling Depression and Victorian Midlands bioregions (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012). The species is now presumed extinct in NSW and SA, and currently persists in a restricted area around Corop, Ballarat, Gunbower and Kerang in Victoria in the Riverina and Victorian Midlands bioregions (AVH 2020). Translocations have been undertaken at Gunbower Forest, around Corop and at several locations around Kerang (D Cook pers.comm. 2020).



Current (black squares) and historic (grey squares) distribution of *Senecio behrianus* in the Victorian Midlands and Riverina bioregions (shaded dark grey) and the Murray Darling Depression bioregion (shaded light grey). At least 12 introduction translocations have been undertaken. Some have failed (grey triangles), but at several sites the species appears to have established and is reproducing clonally via rhizomes (hollow triangles). These are not yet included as self-sustaining subpopulations because plants have been in the ground for <5 years (IUCN 2019).



## Population estimate and trends

*Senecio behrianus* is currently known from seven wild subpopulations and seven translocated subpopulations. The species was presumed extinct until it was relocated in 1991 at Corop in Victoria. Counts were undertaken in 2015 at all subpopulations, however accurately estimating the number of mature individuals (IUCN 2019) is difficult as the species forms rhizomatous 'patches' of interconnected plants (D Cook pers.comm. 2020). All subpopulations occupy <0.25 ha in extent, and total population size is likely to be <250 individuals (D Cook pers.comm. 2020). A total of 31 patches were recorded in 2015. Two subpopulations have recently become extinct (Nevill and Camelleri 2010; Cook 2015), and two others are suspected to be declining due to a range of threats. Further surveys are required to assess trends in the remaining wild subpopulations (D Cook pers.comm. 2020).

At least 12 translocations have been undertaken, and some plants survive at seven sites, with vegetative recruitment occurring at five. These sites are not yet considered self-sustaining as they have been in the ground for <5 years (IUCN 2019; Silcock *et al.* 2019).

Targeted surveys have been conducted in suitable habitat across the species' range on public land, however additional small subpopulations may exist, particularly on private land in the Kerang and Corop regions (D Cook pers.comm. 2020).

*Senecio behrianus* monitoring data, 1993-2020 (Cook 2015; Nevill and Camelleri 2010; Silcock *et al.* 2019, D Cook pers.comm. 2020)

| Subpopulation (tenure)                                                      | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                                 | Trend                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Miners Rest, Ballarat (Wetland Reserve)                                   | 2015: 5 patches over 2000 m <sup>2</sup>                                 | Unknown                                                  |
| 2 Gilmour Road, Corop (Shire roadside/private property)                     | 2015: 6 patches over 100 m <sup>2</sup>                                  | Unknown                                                  |
| 3 Grinter Road S, Corop (Shire roadside/private property)                   | 2015: 10 patches over 200 m <sup>2</sup>                                 | Unknown                                                  |
| 4 Grinter Road N, Corop (Shire roadside/private property)                   | 2015: 2 patches over 10 m <sup>2</sup>                                   | Decreasing                                               |
| 5 Wallenjoe Road, Corop (private property)                                  | 2015: 0                                                                  | Presumed extinct                                         |
| 6 McGillivray Road, Gunbower (Shire roadside)                               | 2015: 3 patches over 10 m <sup>2</sup>                                   | Decreasing                                               |
| 7 North-west of Lake Boga (private property)                                | 2015: 10 patches over 20 m <sup>2</sup>                                  | Unknown                                                  |
| 8 Winlaton (private property)                                               | 2020: 20-30 plants (estimated)                                           | Unknown                                                  |
| 9 (T) Between Reedy Lagoon and Black Swamp, Gunbower Forest (National Park) | 2016: 50T<br>2017: 25T<br>2020: 9T                                       | 9 plants now well established and spreading via rhizomes |
| 10 (T) Gravel Pit Track, Gunbower Forest (National Park)                    | 2016: 20T<br>2017: 3T                                                    | Low survival                                             |
| 11 (T) Greens Lake, Corop (wildlife reserve)                                | 1993: unknown number planted<br>2010: 0                                  | Failed                                                   |
| 12 (T) Hudson Track, Gunbower Forest (National Park)                        | 2016: 7 planted<br>2017: 7 planted<br>2020: 2T                           | 2 plants now well established and spreading via rhizomes |
| 13 (T) Koondrook Track, Gunbower Forest (National Park)                     | 2014: 16 plants over 20 m <sup>2</sup><br>2016: (12 planted)<br>2017: 1T | Low survival                                             |
| 14 (T) Mansfield Swamp, Corop (wildlife reserve)                            | 1990s: unknown number planted<br>2010: 0                                 | Failed                                                   |
| 15 (T) Spur Creek, Gunbower Forest (National Park)                          | 2016: 80T<br>2017: 40T                                                   | Unknown                                                  |

| Subpopulation (tenure)                                               | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)                  | Trend                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 16 (T) Two Tree Swamp, Corop (wildlife reserve)*                     | 2003 and 2005: 200T<br>2015: 100T over 100 m <sup>2</sup> | Stable                                                   |
| 17 (T) Wallenjoe Swamp, Corop (wildlife reserve)                     | 1993: 50 planted<br>2015: very few alive                  | Failed                                                   |
| 18 (T) Wirralo Wetlands, Murrabit West (covenanted private property) | 2016-2020: 75 planted                                     | Some plants well- established and spreading via rhizomes |
| 19 (T) Johnson Swamp Wildlife Reserve (State Game Reserve)           | 2018: 40T planted                                         | Some plants well- established and spreading via rhizomes |
| 20 (T) McDonalds Swamp Wildlife Reserve (State Game Reserve)         | 2016-2018: 40T planted                                    | Some plants well- established and spreading via rhizomes |

Translocated individuals/subpopulation (T). \*An earlier translocation (1994) of >50 plants at this site failed and is not shown here.

## Habitat and ecology

*Senecio behrianus* grows in grey, poorly-drained sedimentary and basaltic clays, often in depressions that are periodically inundated (Nevill and Camilleri 2010). It grows in swampy areas, amongst open riverine woodlands, grassy wetlands and dense reed beds (Nevill and Camilleri 2010). At three sites it also occurs on artificial levees and channel embankments (D Cook pers.comm. 2020). Associated species include *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Muehlenbeckia florulenta*, *Marsilea drummondii*, *Rytidosperma duttonianum*, *Rytidosperma caespitosum*, *Eragrostis infecunda*, *Amphibromus nervosus*, *Carex tereticaulis*, *Teucrium racemosum* and *Marsilea drummondii* (Nevill and Camilleri 2010; D Cook unpublished data).

The hydrological regime is an important habitat requirement for *S. behrianus*. The species appears to depend on periodic inundation, as individuals will die if they become too dry or are flooded for too long (Nevill and Camilleri 2010). Growth is more vigorous in areas flooded to a depth of >30 cm, possibly due to reduced competition, although the species can also grow on slightly raised areas rather than in the bottom of depressions (Nevill and Camilleri 2010). Plants recently introduced to wetlands in the Kerang region that are regularly inundated (every 1-3 years) by environmental water are growing vigorously, flowering profusely and producing copious quantities of seed (D Cook pers.comm. 2020). By contrast, nearby wild subpopulations that did not receive regular water over the same period have remained stable or declined, produced few flowers and few seed (D Cook pers.comm. 2020).

*Senecio behrianus* can re-sprout after disturbances including fire, grazing and drought, and extreme fluctuations are unlikely. Recruitment from seed has not been observed in the wild despite high rates of germination under experimental conditions (Nevill and Camilleri 2010). Given most individuals are connected by woody rhizomes, genetic diversity may be low (Nevill and Camilleri 2010).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                            | Estimate                                    | Reliability |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence       | 14 021 km <sup>2</sup>                      | Medium      |
| Trend                      | Stable                                      | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual) | 24 km <sup>2</sup> (<00.1 km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium      |
| Trend                      | Stable                                      | High        |
| No. of mature individuals  | <250                                        | Medium      |
| Trend                      | Decreasing                                  | Medium      |
| No. locations (key threat) | 5 (+7T) (altered hydrology)                 | Medium      |
| Trend                      | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| No. of subpopulations      | 8 (+7T)                                     | Medium      |
| Trend                      | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| Generation length          | Unknown                                     | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations       | Not documented                              | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented        | Yes                                         | High        |
| Continuing decline         | Observed and projected                      | Medium      |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                         |
| B2ab(iii-v)    | EN: AOO <500 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented; and continuing decline observed in area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                        |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                     |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                     |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                     | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grazing and trampling (livestock)<br><i>Suspended</i> | Majority | Slow       | Low           | Defoliation and trampling damage plants. Known subpopulations have been fenced to exclude stock (Nevill and Camilleri 2010).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Altered hydrology<br><i>Ongoing</i>                   | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | Hydrological regimes are an important habitat requirement of the species, and these have been extensively modified in the region. Plants recently introduced to wetlands that are regularly inundated by environmental water are growing and seeding vigorously and reproducing via rhizomes, in contrast to natural subpopulations that do not receive this water that have declined or remained stable over the same time period (D Cook pers.comm. 2020). Four of the eight subpopulations occur in close proximity to each other on the same drainage system, so the species occurs at five locations when assessed against this threat. |
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past and ongoing</i>               | Majority | Very rapid | High          | Land clearing for agriculture has resulted in the decline and severe fragmentation of habitat. This threat is ongoing at some locations, with one landholder recently clearing trees and applying herbicide near one subpopulation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i>          | Majority | Rapid      | Medium        | Many subpopulations occur on roadsides and irrigation channels and are vulnerable to slashing, channel maintenance and other earthworks, herbicide application and other maintenance activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                      | Whole    | Slow       | Medium        | Invasive perennial grasses, mat-forming herbs and woody weeds occur at all sites and can outcompete native species (Nevill and Camilleri 2010; D Cook pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Genetic diversity<br><i>Ongoing</i>                   | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | Recruitment from seed has not been observed and plants are connected by rhizomes, therefore the number of distinct genetic individuals may be low (Nevill and Camilleri 2010).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i>          | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | <i>Senecio behrianus</i> re-sprouts readily after fire and this may be important in its life cycle (Nevill and Camilleri 2010). Fire regimes have changed with large scale habitat conversion, although direct impacts on the species are not documented.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| Threat and timing                | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat change<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Majority | Unknown  | Unknown       | There is dense river red gum regeneration at some sites, and this may impact the suitability of the habitat in the long-term (D Cook pers.comm. 2017). |
| Climate change<br><i>Future</i>  | Whole    | Unknown  | Unknown       | Climate change will result in drier winters and alter hydrology that the species depends upon (Timbal <i>et al.</i> 2015).                             |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified and implemented (Nevill and Camilleri 2010).
- The species occurs in a wetland reserve at Miners Rest, but other naturally occurring subpopulations are on private land or roadsides.
- Twelve translocations have been undertaken since the early 1990s using seedlings and cuttings at sites in Gunbower Forest north-west of Echuca, around Corop and Kerang, and plants remain at nine of these.
- The species is presumed extinct in NSW and there are no active recovery actions for the species in this jurisdiction (Office of Environment and Heritage 2017). Similarly, there are no recent records of the species in South Australia, although plants have been grown *ex situ* by the South Australian Seed Conservation Centre.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Protect habitat of known subpopulations in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild by maintaining and expanding translocation program.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Continue targeted surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                | High     |
|                                            | Monitor population response to recovery actions. Revisit all wild subpopulations to assess trends and threats.                                                                                                                                                                 | High     |
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including hydrological requirements, fire ecology, conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Identify potential habitat for further translocations and secure in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                                                                                                                                       | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                         | Protect known subpopulations and other suitable habitat in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                                                                                                              | High     |
| Habitat quality                            | Increase habitat quality for subpopulations occurring on roadside remnants via revegetation, invasive weed control, exclusion of grazing stock and allocation of environmental water to translocated and naturally-occurring subpopulations. | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Implement appropriate fire regime at all sites to increase the number of mature individuals and improve habitat quality.                                                                                                                     | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Maintain and expand <i>ex situ</i> subpopulation to represent maximum range of genetic diversity; continue translocation attempts.                                                                                                           | High     |
|                                            | Maintain translocated subpopulations with ongoing management actions as required.                                                                                                                                                            | High     |

## Experts consulted

Damien Cook.

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## *Solanum orgadophilum* A.R.Bean [Solanaceae] Capella potato bush



*Solanum orgadophilum* flower (top left), roadside habitat adjacent to cropping land at Clermont (right) and plant showing cordate leaf base amongst remnant grassland at Capella (bottom left; images: Teghan Collingwood).

### Overview

*Solanum orgadophilum* occurs on fertile soils in central Queensland. Clearing for agriculture has been extensive in this habitat and is ongoing for mining and urban development. All three subpopulations are in disturbed areas that are threatened by human activities, including a narrow road verge and two urban properties; one is a grazing paddock and the other is zoned for development. Habitat security is essential for the persistence of this species, and a better understanding of its biology and disturbance ecology is required to inform land management and translocations.

### Conservation status

|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Not listed                         |
| <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>                                  | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

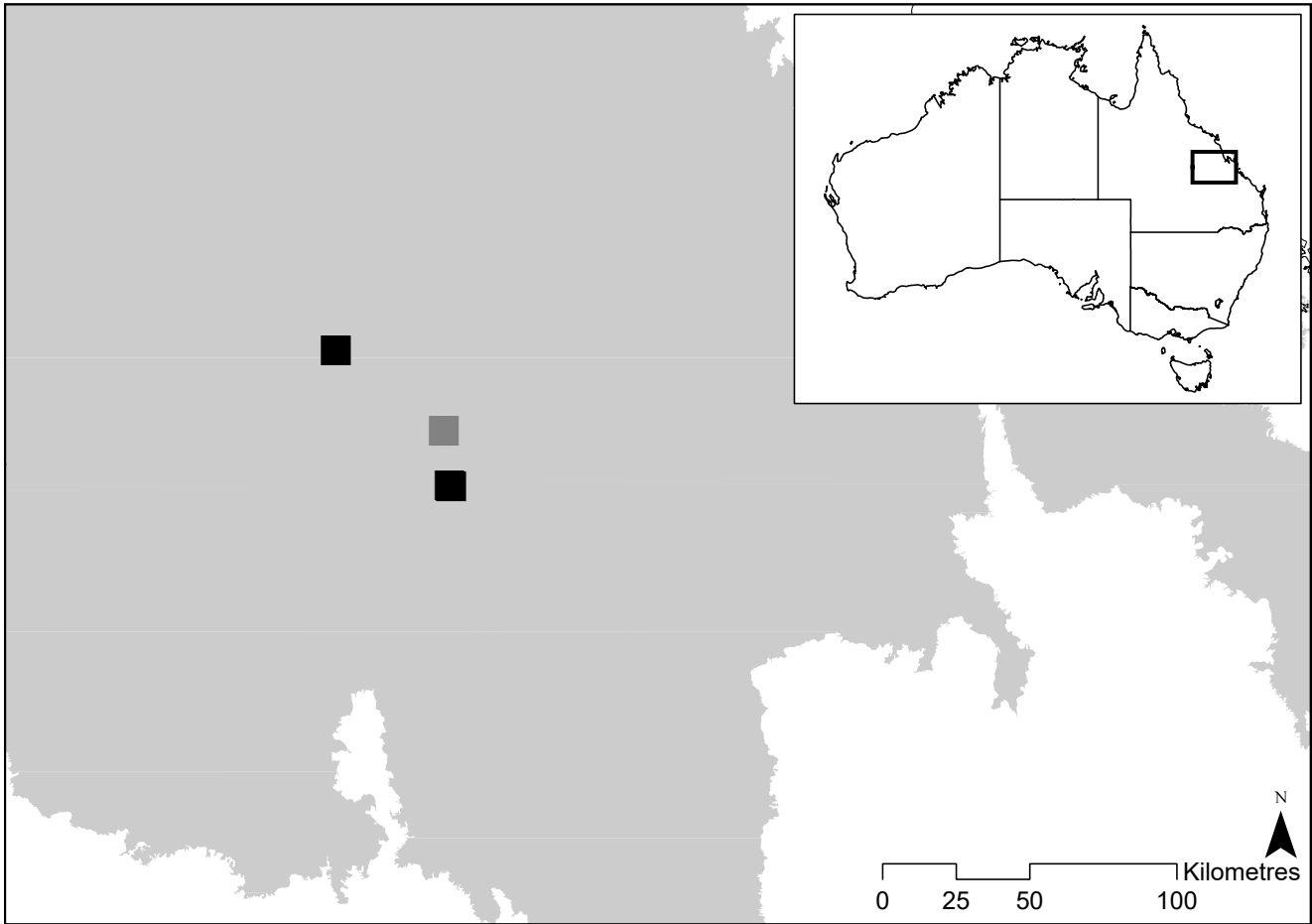
### Brief description

Erect perennial herb to 40 cm tall that grows from underground rhizomes (Bean 2010). Branches are white-grey to brown and covered in sparse prickles and stellate hairs. Leaves are hairy and ovate with entire, often undulating margins 6.5-20 cm long and 3.8-11.7 cm wide, usually with a cordate base. The inflorescence has 3-6 purple flowers 13-14 mm wide (Bean 2010). Immature fruit have been rarely observed. *Solanum orgadophilum* is distinct within the genus (Bean 2010).



## Distribution

*Solanum orgadophilum* is known from a very narrow range near Capella and Clermont in the Brigalow Belt North bioregion of Queensland (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Queensland Herbarium 2020).



Current (black squares) and historic (grey square) distribution of *Solanum orgadophilum* in the Brigalow Belt North bioregion (shaded grey) of Queensland (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; QH 2020). Note that the southern square represents two close but separate extant subpopulations at Capella.

## Population estimate and trends

The first collections of *S. orgadophilum* were from Peak Downs in 1951 and 1954, when the species was 'very common' and a 'serious weed' (Queensland Herbarium 2020). The species appears to have undergone a severe decline since, with only four subsequent collections, in 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2019 (Queensland Herbarium 2020). The species is currently known from three sites, where it forms patches of stems, with each patch probably a single cloning individual (Bean 2010). At Gordon Street (Capella), there were 100 plants observed in 2014. In 2019, there were ca. 50-100 patches of 30-40 stems, equating to 1500-4000 individuals. At Kettle Street (Capella), >30 plants were recorded in a grazing paddock in 2010, but the species was not detected here in 2014 or 2019. At Clermont, the species occurred in 'two small patches' (2-3 m<sup>2</sup>) of up to 500 stems (Queensland Herbarium 2020; Bean 2010), was absent in 2008 and <500 stems were present in 2019. A future population reduction of >80% is projected due to habitat conversion at Gordon Street combined with the apparent loss of the Kettle Street subpopulation in Capella.

Despite extensive surveys, the species has not been located elsewhere in the region (Fensham 1999). However, the species may go undetected as it can persist underground as rhizomes. Further opportunistic surveys are warranted, although survey effort to date indicates the species is very rare (Fensham 1999; R Fensham and T Collingwood unpublished data).

## Habitat and ecology

*Solanum orgadophilum* grows in clay soils on flat to undulating terrain in grasslands or open eucalypt woodlands (Bean 2010). Flowering has been recorded in January and May, and immature fruit have been observed in May. Flowers are often infertile indicating reproduction and dispersal is predominantly asexual via rhizomes, although further research is required. Although fluctuations in abundance have been observed, *S. orgadophilum* can persist underground and re-sprout from rhizomes after disturbance (Bean 2010), indicating extreme fluctuations are unlikely (IUCN 2019). The generation length is not known.

*Solanum orgadophilum* appears to prosper with some disturbance. It has been observed growing in association with mechanical disturbance at both Clermont and Capella. Open vegetation structure may be an important habitat requirement, as the Clermont subpopulation was not detected in previous years when grass cover was dense. Although plants appeared to be ungrazed at Clermont in 2019, prolonged grazing may lead to declines, as the species is now absent from grazing paddocks including Kettle Street (Capella).

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                   | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual) | 8 km <sup>2</sup> (0.01 km <sup>2</sup> )  | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 8 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.01 km <sup>2</sup> ) | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. locations (key threat)    | 3 (habitat loss)                           | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 3                                          | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | <5000                                      | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| Generation length             | Unknown                                    | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                             | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                        | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                     | High        |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A3c            | CR: >80% population reduction projected within 10 years (generation length unknown so minimum threshold applied) based on decline in AOO and EOO.                                                                                       |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and continuing decline projected in AOO, EOO, number of locations and number of mature individuals; and continuing decline observed in quality of habitat. |
| C1             | VU: <10 000 mature individuals; projected decline of >10% within 10 years.                                                                                                                                                              |
| D              | Not eligible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                            |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                                 | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past and ongoing</i>                           | Whole    | Very rapid | High          | More than 67% of grasslands in central Queensland have been converted to crops or pasture (Butler 2006). All subpopulations of <i>S. orgadophilum</i> occur in small, isolated patches surrounded by farmland, mines or housing and are severely fragmented amongst a heavily cleared landscape. The species occurs at three locations when assessed against the range of threats associated with habitat loss, which can be managed at the land tenure/ subpopulation scale. |
| Infrastructure development/ roadside threats<br><i>Ongoing</i>    | Whole    | Very rapid | High          | At Clermont, the subpopulation occurs on a road verge. The species is vulnerable to management activities such as grading (observed), road realignment and herbicide drift from adjacent cropping properties.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i>               | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | No plants were seen at the Clermont subpopulation in 2008 when dense grass covered the site (Bean 2010) but was relocated in a recently disturbed area in 2019. At Gordon Street, the species forms patches in open areas of grassland and in recently disturbed soil. Prolonged grazing may be responsible for the absence of the species at Kettle Street.                                                                                                                  |
| Grazing (domestic stock)<br><i>Ongoing</i>                        | Whole    | Slow       | Medium        | The subpopulation at Clermont occurs on a road verge periodically used for cattle grazing. The optimal grazing/ disturbance regime is not understood. At Capella, the species has not been detected since 2010 in a paddock that is continuously grazed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Invasive weeds/ competition with native species<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole    | Slow       | Medium        | Invasive weeds (especially parthenium) are present in the species' habitat (Bean 2010). Invasive weeds degrade habitat and encourage conversion of grazing paddocks to croplands (Butler 2006; Fensham 1999). The species was absent at Clermont when perennial grass cover was dense, possibly due to competition (Bean 2010).                                                                                                                                               |
| Human activities<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                | Minority | Very rapid | Medium        | The subpopulation at Kettle Street (Capella) has been subject to active removal and slashing (A Bean pers.comm. 2019; Bean 2010).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Insect herbivory<br><i>Future</i>                                 | Majority | Unknown    | Unknown       | Insect herbivory was evident on leaves of all individuals at the Clermont subpopulation in 2019, but the specific impact is not known (T Collingwood pers.obs. 2019).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## Current management

- There is no recovery plan for this species.
- This species does not occur in any conservation reserves.
- Surveys of suitable habitat undertaken since the mid-1990s, including the extensive environmental impact assessments of the coal-mining boom in the early 2000s, have confirmed the rarity of the species (R Fensham pers.comm. 2020).

## Conservation objectives

- Establish conservation covenants over existing subpopulations.
- Increase understanding of the species' biology and ecology to guide management actions.
- Establish genetically representative *ex situ* collection to reduce extinction risk and support introduction of species to secure tenure.
- Detect more subpopulations via opportunistic surveys.

### Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                            | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Life history and ecology                   | Undertake research to better understand the biology and ecology of the species including disturbance ecology and reproductive strategy.     | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Undertake research to determine effective methods for propagating species <i>ex situ</i> .                                                  | High     |
|                                            | Identify areas of suitable habitat on secure tenure for future translocations, if feasible.                                                 | High     |
| Population surveys                         | Monitor response of known subpopulations to management actions and threats.                                                                 | High     |
|                                            | Opportunistic surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations, particularly after disturbance. | Medium   |

### Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                         | Protect known habitat of species at Capella and Clermont in appropriate conservation agreements. If possible, acquire land at Gordon Street and gazette as a conservation reserve. Ensure habitat at Gordon Street is not converted to urban land use. | High     |
|                                            | Protect additional suitable habitat (if present) in conservation agreements with view to establish additional subpopulations via translocation                                                                                                         | High     |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes          | Implement disturbance (i.e. fire/ periodic grazing) at subpopulations when required to maintain/increase population abundance.                                                                                                                         | High     |
| Extension and awareness                    | Raise awareness of the species with relevant stakeholders in an attempt to locate additional subpopulations.                                                                                                                                           | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Establish <i>ex situ</i> collection representing maximum range of genetic diversity possible. Increase the number of wild subpopulations via introductions to secure tenure.                                                                           | High     |

## Experts consulted

Tony Bean, Rod Fensham and Teghan Collingwood.

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## *Sphaerolobium acanthos* Crisp [FABACEAE] Grampians globe-pea



*Sphaerolobium acanthos* flowers (image: Neville Walsh, State Botanical Collection, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria).

### Overview

*Sphaerolobium acanthos* is endemic to Gariwerd (Grampians National Park) in western Victoria. Herbarium records indicate it once occurred at up to 15 sites, but is now present at only four of these due to a combination of threats including vertebrate pest browsing, urbanisation, infrastructure maintenance and recreational activities. Recovery actions including fencing, phytophthora management and regular monitoring are required to secure this species.

### Conservation status

|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Critically Endangered              |
| <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>                            | Threatened                         |
| Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria               | Rare                               |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

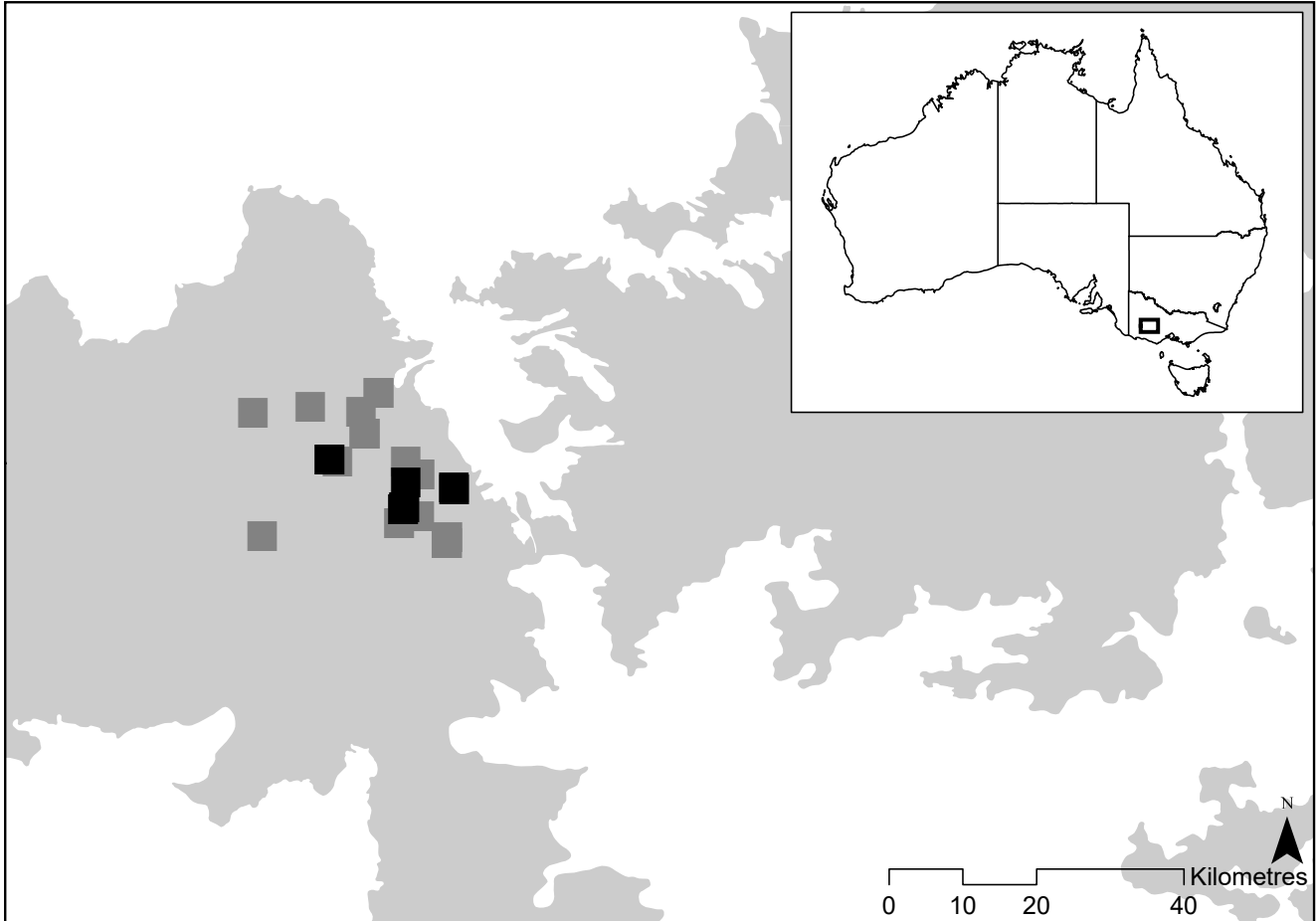
### Brief description

Erect, perennial shrub to 1 m with long rigid branches (Crisp 1994). Branchlets are divaricate and often 3-5-forked at the tips. Leaves are scattered to sub-whorled and 2-3 mm long. Flowers are mostly orange with a yellow flare at the base of the standard. Fruit is a plump, ovoid pod 4.5 mm long and 2.5 mm wide with broad-ovoid seed (Crisp 1994). *Sphaerolobium acanthos* has been confused with *S. daviesioides* that only occurs in Western Australia and has different branchlet morphology, and no stigma hairs (Crisp 1994).



## Distribution

*Sphaerolobium acanthos* is known from a restricted distribution in Gariwerd (Grampians National Park) within the Victorian Midlands bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2020). Although the habitat of *S. acanthos* is relatively intact, the species is considered severely fragmented (IUCN 2019) as some past habitat loss has occurred and recolonisation of areas following local extinction is unlikely (IUCN 2019).



Current (black squares) and historic (grey squares) distribution of *Sphaerolobium acanthos* in the Victorian Midlands bioregion (shaded grey) of Victoria (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DELWP 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Sphaerolobium acanthos* is currently known from four subpopulations with approximately 70 mature individuals. The majority of individuals occur at Duwil (Mt William). Herbarium records indicate the species previously occurred at up to 15 sites throughout the park (AVH 2020). Many of these subpopulations are presumed to have been destroyed during roadworks, housing development, the construction of Lake Bellfield and walking track widening (N Reiter pers. comm. 2019). Targeted surveys of suitable habitat in 2015 failed to locate additional subpopulations.

*Sphaerolobium acanthos* monitoring data, 2011-2017 (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019; TSSC 2016).

| Subpopulation (tenure)               | Number of mature individuals (juveniles) | Trend      |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 Duwil (Mt William) (national park) | 2011: <20<br>2017: ca. 60                | Unknown    |
| 2 Firebreak (national park)          | 2011: <20<br>2015: <5<br>2017: <5        | Decreasing |
| 3 Calectasia Falls (national park)   | 2013: <10                                | Unknown    |
| 4 Redmans Track (national park)      | 2015: <5<br>2017: <3                     | Decreasing |

## Habitat and ecology

*Sphaerolobium acanthos* occurs in sclerophyll forests, woodland and heath. The largest subpopulation is situated amongst high altitude heathland on the slopes of Duwil (Mt William; N Reiter pers.comm. 2019). The species also occurs on lower slopes, gullies and near streams (Crisp 1994). Associated species include *Eucalyptus baxteri*, *Acacia myrtifolia*, *Allocasuarina grampiana*, *Leucochrysum albicans*, *Kunzea ericoides*, *Leptospermum continentale*, *Isopogon ceratophyllus*, *Grevillea alpina*, *Ixodia achillaeoides*, *Cassytha glabella*, *Hakea nodosa*, *Banksia marginata* and *Correa reflexa* (AVH 2020).

Flowering occurs from late November to January, with fruit produced until February (Crisp 1994). As with other species in the genus, pollination is probably by insects especially native bees (Hymenoptera; TSSC 2016). Naturally occurring plants appear to be slow-growing, although the growth rate of cultivated plants is comparable to other native pea shrubs (N Walsh pers.comm. 2019).

*Sphaerolobium acanthos* is probably an obligate-seeder (TSSC 2016). Mature individuals are killed by fire and there have been no observations of re-sprouting. Fire may stimulate germination of soil-stored seed, as a recently located subpopulation occurs in a previously burnt area. Due to this apparently persistent seedbank, extreme fluctuations are considered unlikely (IUCN 2019), but further knowledge of seed biology is required. No recruitment was observed at two subpopulations during surveys in 2011, 2013 and 2015.

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                 | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 30 km <sup>2</sup>                       | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 16 km <sup>2</sup> (<1 km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | <70                                      | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 4 (vertebrate pests)                     | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 4                                        | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                               | High        |
| Generation length             | Unknown                                  | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                           | Low         |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                      | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed                                 | Medium      |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                            |
| B1ab(i-v)      | EN: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; <5 locations; and continuing decline observed in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed; and <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation.                                                                                         |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                        |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                        |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                                      | Scope    | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Urban development<br><i>Past</i>                                       | n/a      | n/a      | n/a           | The Halls Gap housing development was constructed at the location of a historic collection where the species has not been relocated (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Vertebrate pests<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                     | Whole    | Rapid    | High          | All subpopulations, but especially Firebreak, are affected by feral goat and deer. Some plants have been severely browsed with no fruit set occurring (TSSC 2016), causing depletion of the soil seedbank and mortality of mature plants. Swamp wallabies may be adding to herbivore pressure due to increased numbers (TSSC 2016). As this threat can be managed at the subpopulation scale via fencing, the species occurs at four locations. |
| Infrastructure construction/<br>maintenance<br><i>Past and ongoing</i> | Majority | Rapid    | High          | Lake Bellfield was constructed at the location of a historic collection (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019). Some individuals were removed for the Redmans Track in 2016, and several other historic collections may have been lost to road maintenance (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019). Part of the Duwil (Mt William) subpopulation was removed during walking track construction (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019).                                               |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Ongoing</i>                                 | Whole    | Slow     | Medium        | <i>Sphaerolobium acanthos</i> is susceptible to phytophthora infection as plants turn black with impaired leaf /branch growth. Extinction risk due to this threat is low-moderate (Reiter <i>et al.</i> 2004)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Human activities<br>(recreation)<br><i>Ongoing</i>                     | Minority | Slow     | Low           | The Firebreak subpopulation is vulnerable to recreation activities, with individuals found trampled and damaged by vehicles (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i>                           | Whole    | Unknown  | Unknown       | As an obligate-seeder, too-frequent fire can exhaust the seedbank, but fire may be required for recruitment. One subpopulation was recently located in a bunt area, although there are no pre-fire surveys to confirm whether fire stimulated recruitment (N Reiter pers.comm. 2019).                                                                                                                                                           |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (TSSC 2016).
- Seed has been collected and an *ex situ* subpopulation established at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Germination and propagation research is ongoing, and translocations have been undertaken.
- This species occurs only within Gariwerd (Grampians National Park), which is managed for conservation.

## Conservation objectives

- Reduce the collective impact of threatening processes on the species.
- Establish a genetically representative *ex situ* collection of the species for conservation and future translocation attempts. Only individuals from Calactasia Falls and Duwil (Mt William) are currently represented in the *ex situ* collection.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Priority     |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Population surveys                         | Targeted surveys in historic locations and other suitable habitat to locate additional subpopulations, particularly after fire.<br>Undertake regular monitoring to understand population trends in relation to threats and recovery actions. | High<br>High |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Identify seed germination cues/requirements to maximise genetic diversity within <i>ex situ</i> propagation program and increase recruitment in wild subpopulations.                                                                         | High         |
| Fire ecology                               | Undertake research to determine the post-fire response of the species and determine a suitable fire regime to ensure population persistence.                                                                                                 | High         |
| Pollination ecology                        | As many Fabaceae species have specific pollinators, undertake pollinator studies to determine the identity and distribution of the pollinators to guide selection of possible translocation sites.                                           | Medium       |
| Habitat requirements                       | Undertake research to determine appropriate sites for translocations. Identify the specific habitat requirements of the species.                                                                                                             | Medium       |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Priority         |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Introduced pathogens                       | Implement hygiene measures to minimise spread of phytophthora, monitor subpopulations for infestation and apply phosphonate treatments as necessary.                                                                                                             | High             |
| Vertebrate pests/grazing                   | Reduce herbivory pressure via vertebrate pest control (culling) and/or fencing (if appropriate), particularly during dry periods.                                                                                                                                | High             |
| Infrastructure maintenance                 | Ensure subpopulations vulnerable to infrastructure maintenance are protected via fencing, markers and/or liaison with appropriate stakeholders.                                                                                                                  | High             |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Ensure <i>ex situ</i> collection represents the maximum range of genetic diversity possible.<br>Establish seed orchard. Undertake intensive propagation program from seed orchard to augment wild subpopulations and re/introduce species to historic/new sites. | Medium<br>Medium |
| Human activities                           | Ensure subpopulations vulnerable to impacts associated with recreational activities are protected via closure of four wheel drive tracks, fencing or other appropriate management actions.                                                                       | Medium           |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Manage fire intervals to increase the soil seedbank, number of mature individuals and populations in the long-term.                                                                                                                                              | Medium           |

## Experts consulted

Neville Walsh, Noushka Reiter and Wendy Bedggood.

## References

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## *Spyridium fontis-woodii* Kellermann & W.R.Barker [RHAMNACEAE] Woods Well spyridium



*Spyridium fontis-woodii* flowers (left) and roadside habitat (right; images: Daniel Duval, South Australian Seed Conservation Centre).

### Overview

*Spyridium fontis-woodii* was described in 2012 and is known from a single roadside population in an agricultural region of South Australia. A recent decline from 35 to 13 mature individuals has been observed, apparently due to a lack of disturbance to promote germination and possibly rabbit browsing. Research into the disturbance ecology and threats is urgently required, alongside translocation to secure tenure.

### Conservation status

|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Not listed                         |
| <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i>                          | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Slender shrub to 1.8 m tall with densely hairy stems (Kellermann and Barker 2012). Leaves 4-8.8 mm long and 3.5-6.5 mm wide with recurved margins, broadly obovate or obcordate and mostly glabrous but with a hairy petiole 1-2 mm long. Inflorescence of densely clustered, funnel-shaped, white-cream flowers that are approximately 3 mm long. Fruit are dark brown, papery and ellipsoid to obovoid, 2-2.2 mm long and 1.2-1.8 mm wide. Seeds are brown and spotted, with a small aril that is easily detached. Although similar to *S. halmaturinum*, *S. furculentum* and *S. coactilifolium*, *S. fontis-woodii* is differentiated by its leaf shape, size and indumentum type (Kellermann and Barker 2012).

### Distribution

*Spyridium fontis-woodii* is known a single site near Woods Well in the Murray Darling Depression bioregion of South Australia (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2012).





Current distribution (black square) of *Spyridium fontis-woodii*, including a translocated subpopulation 5 km away that is not self-sustaining, in the Murray Darling Depression bioregion (shaded grey) of South Australia (AVH 2020; DPAW 2012).

## Population estimate and trends

*Spyridium fontis-woodii* was first collected in 1973 and remains known from this single population, occupying an area of ~100 m<sup>2</sup> in a narrow roadside remnant (D Duval pers.comm. 2018). In 1995 and 2012, 35 mature individuals were recorded, and there were >50 in 2006. By 2018, the subpopulation had declined to 13 plants (D Duval pers.comm. 2020), an overall population reduction of 63% within 23 years.

Potential habitat is rare in the area and typically occurs as small and disturbed roadside remnants (Department for Environment and Water 2020). Although extensive searches have been undertaken, more are recommended in Messent Conservation Park and potentially suitable habitat on private land in the area, particularly after fire (DEW 2020).

## Habitat and ecology

*Spyridium fontis-woodii* is an understorey shrub that grows amongst open shrubland dominated by *Eucalyptus diversifolia* with a diverse understorey. Soils are light brown sands over calcrete (Kellermann and Barker 2012). Flowers and fruit have been collected in October (Kellermann and Barker 2012).

As with other species in the genus, pollination is probably via insects and seed are dispersed limited distances by ants (Carter and Downe 2006). Seed has a hard coat, and is presumably stored in the soil until disturbance breaks this physical dormancy. The known subpopulation comprises a single-aged cohort, indicating germination was triggered by a disturbance event (D Duval pers.comm. 2018). Fire probably kills mature individuals while stimulating germination of soil-stored seed, although further research is required. Other species in the genus are reproductively mature at 1-4 years and can live for at least 45 years (Coates 1996; D Duval pers.comm. 2018). Generation length is estimated as 10-30 years (DEW 2020).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                                        | Estimate                                                  | Reliability  |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Extent of occurrence (actual)<br>Trend | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.0001 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing | High<br>High |
| Area of occupancy (actual)<br>Trend    | 4 km <sup>2</sup> (0.0001 km <sup>2</sup> )<br>Decreasing | High<br>High |
| No. of mature individuals<br>Trend     | 13<br>Decreasing                                          | High<br>High |
| No. of locations (key threat)<br>Trend | 1 (lack of recruitment)<br>Stable                         | High<br>High |
| No. of subpopulations<br>Trend         | 1<br>Stable                                               | High<br>High |
| Generation length                      | 10-30 years                                               | Medium       |
| Extreme fluctuations                   | Not documented                                            | Medium       |
| Severely fragmented                    | Yes                                                       | High         |
| Continuing decline                     | Observed and projected                                    | High         |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A2a            | EN: >50% reduction observed within 3 generations (63% from 1995-2019); causes may not have ceased, are not well-understood and may not be reversible; based on direct observation (see also DEW 2020).                                                            |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <10 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; and continuing decline observed and projected in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, number of mature individuals. |
| C1+2a(i,ii)    | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; <50 mature individuals in each subpopulation; 90-100% (100%) of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                                  |
| D              | CR: <50 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                     | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past</i>                           | n/a   | n/a      | n/a           | Eighty-one percent of vegetation within the region has been cleared for agriculture (DEW 2020). Potentially suitable habitat for the species now occurs as small, isolated and often disturbed roadside remnants and the species is considered severely fragmented (DEW 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Lack of disturbance/<br>recruitment<br><i>Ongoing</i> | Whole | Rapid    | High          | Recruitment of <i>S. fontis-woodii</i> has never been observed and the even-aged cohort indicates seeds germinated following disturbance. Disturbance is thought to break physical dormancy of soil-stored seed, as well maintain an open vegetation structure. Most remnant vegetation in the area occurs in small patches along roadsides that are rarely burnt, as fire frequency has decreased since colonisation (DEW 2020). Senescence is projected in the absence of managed disturbance. |

| Threat and timing                           | Scope | Severity | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>            | Whole | Unknown  | Unknown       | Invasive weeds including bridal creeper and veldt-grass are present and may impact the species by increasing competition and altering fuel loads and thus fire regimes.                                           |
| Grazing (feral)<br><i>Ongoing</i>           | Whole | Unknown  | Unknown       | Rabbits and hares are present and may browse plants and seedlings. In 2018, all individuals were growing among other plants, which may have been protecting them from browsing impacts (D Duval pers.comm. 2019). |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Future</i> | Whole | Rapid    | Medium        | The only known subpopulation occurs on a roadside and is vulnerable to future maintenance activities.                                                                                                             |
| Genetic diversity<br><i>Future</i>          | Whole | Unknown  | Unknown       | Given the small population size the species may be vulnerable to genetic effects including inbreeding depression.                                                                                                 |

## Current management

- There is no recovery plan for this species.
- This species is only known from a roadside that is not managed for conservation.
- Seed was collected from the population in 2006 and 2013 for storage at the Millennium Seed Bank and the SA Seed Conservation Centre (DEW 2020).
- A number of plants have been propagated by the SA Seed Conservation Centre, and 20-30 now are now growing in a seed orchard, from which additional seed has been collected (D Duval pers.comm. 2020). A small-scale translocation of >20 plants including some seedlings has occurred ca. 5 km from the natural subpopulation (D Duval pers.comm. 2020).
- A local school has been engaged in conservation activities including plant propagation, establishment of a seed orchard, plantings on their property and targeted surveys (Botanic Gardens of South Australia 2016).

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulation.
- Increase the number of self-sustaining wild subpopulations via translocation to other suitable habitat on secure tenure and surveys of additional habitat.
- Better understand the germination requirements of the species.
- Establish a large *ex situ* population for future translocation efforts.

## Information required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                         | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                         | Continue population monitoring to understand response to conservation actions and threats.                               | High     |
|                                            | Undertake further surveys to determine whether additional subpopulations exist, particularly after disturbance events.   | High     |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes          | Undertaken research to better understand the disturbance ecology of the species particularly in relation to germination. | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Determine habitat requirements and potential sites for translocation on secure tenure.                                   | High     |
|                                            | Investigate feasibility of translocation and develop translocation plan.                                                 | High     |
| Herbivory                                  | Trial caging/fencing to examine the role of herbivory in limiting recruitment.                                           | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                  | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Infrastructure maintenance                 | Install markers to caution contractors working in the area of the species' presence.                                              | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Maintain and expand the <i>ex situ</i> collection to represent the maximum range of genetic diversity possible.                   | High     |
|                                            | Propagate large numbers of individuals for future translocation attempts.                                                         | High     |
|                                            | Continue to implement translocation at Crawford site.                                                                             | High     |
| Habitat quality                            | Control invasive weeds within the subpopulation.                                                                                  | High     |
|                                            | Control vertebrate pests to minimise browsing impacts as required.                                                                | High     |
| Extension and awareness                    | Ensure the Coorong District Council who manage the roadside is aware of the species' presence and their conservation obligations. | High     |
|                                            | Raise awareness with relevant stakeholders in attempt to locate additional subpopulations                                         | Medium   |

## Experts consulted

Daniel Duval and Angela Duffy.

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*Spyridium furculentum* W.R.Barker & Kellerman  
[RHAMNACEAE]  
Forked spyridium



*Spyridium furculentum* growing at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (image: Jo Lynch).

## Overview

*Spyridium furculentum* occurs amongst a heavily cleared landscape and is not protected in the conservation estate. Two roadside subpopulations are presumed extinct, and others on private property are declining in association with phytophthora *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and drought. Long-term survival may depend on translocating the species to secure tenure, with an introduction that commenced in 2017 showing early signs of success.

## Conservation status

|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Endangered                         |
| <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>                            | Threatened                         |
| Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria               | Endangered                         |
| IUCN Red List (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

## Brief description

Shrub to 1.6 m high, young branchlets densely pubescent with stellate hairs that are initially rusty and become greyish (Walsh and Entwisle 1999; Kellermann and Barker 2012). Leaves are dark grey-green and Y-shaped with red-brown stipules at the base. Inflorescence a cluster of small, white-cream flowers to 10 mm wide surrounded by 2-5 densely hairy, pale-green white floral leaves. Fruit dark brown and ovoid, 2-2.5 mm long and 1.4-1.6 mm wide. Each fruit comprises three papery fruitlets with brown-black seeds to 1.9 mm long and 1.1 mm wide. *Spyridium furculentum* is similar to *S. halmaturinum* and *S. fontis-woodii* and distinguished by deeply emarginate, bifid or Y-shaped leaves and its upper leaf surface becoming glabrous (Kellermann and Barker 2012).

## Distribution

*Spyridium furculentum* is known from a very restricted distribution near the southern boundary of the Little Desert, between Goroke and Dimboola in the Murray Darling Depression bioregion of Victoria (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment 2012; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2020).



Current (black squares) and historic (grey squares) distribution of *Spyridium furculentum* in the Murray Darling Depression bioregion (shaded grey) of western Victoria (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; DELWP 2020). Two translocations have occurred including an introduction that is not yet self-sustaining (hollow triangle) and an augmentation (grey triangle) with no surviving plants (Silcock *et al.* 2019).

## Population estimate and trends

*Spyridium furculentum* was first collected from Cooack Parish at the southern border of the Little Desert in 1894 (AVH 2020). In 2008, there were 500 individuals across five subpopulations (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2008), which declined to a single plant on a roadside and 200 individuals across three subpopulations on private property by 2017 (N Walsh pers.comm. 2020). Currently, there are three extant subpopulations with <250 mature individuals. Seedlings and juveniles have been observed but are rare (P Rudolph pers.comm. 2020).

In 2017, a translocated subpopulation was established on private property, but it is not yet self-sustaining. A small augmentation of a roadside subpopulation occurred in 1992, although no plants survived (Silcock *et al.* 2019). Despite the limited remaining habitat, three subpopulations were located during targeted surveys from 2006-2017, indicating additional small subpopulations may be located in the future (N Walsh pers.comm. 2020). Given declines are simultaneously affecting all individuals/subpopulations, which occur in close proximity, the species is considered to occur at one location (IUCN 2019).



*Spyridium furculentum* monitoring data, 2006-2018 (Carter and Downe 2006; TSSC 2018; N Walsh pers.comm. 2017).

| Subpopulation (tenure)                                                        | Number of mature individuals (juveniles)           | Trend               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Cooack Fire Access Road (roadside)                                          | 2006: 9<br>2008: 9<br>2018: 0                      | Presumed extinct    |
| 2 Cooack Settlement Road (roadside)                                           | 2006: 120<br>2008: 120<br>2016: 1<br>2018: 0       | Presumed extinct    |
| 3 Cooack (private property 1)                                                 | 2006: 35<br>2008: 35<br>2016: 0 (some dead plants) | Decreasing          |
| 4 Cooack (private property 2)                                                 | 2008: 380+<br>2016: ca. 200                        | Decreasing          |
| 5 Cooack (private property 3)                                                 | 2008: 50+                                          | Unknown             |
| 6 (T) Greening Australia property (private property managed for conservation) | 2017: 174T<br>2018: 110T<br>2019: 95T              | Not self-sustaining |

Translocated individuals/subpopulation (T).

## Habitat and ecology

*Spyridium furculentum* occurs on aeolian deep brown-white sandy rises amongst heathy mallee woodland (Carter and Downe 2006). Dominant species include *Eucalyptus arenacea*, *Callitris rhomboidea*, *Allocasuarina muelleriana* and *E. incrassata*. Associated heath species include *Astroloma conostephioides*, *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Calytrix alpestris*, *C. tetragona*, *Hibbertia sericea*, *Leucopogon ericoides*, *Leptospermum myrsinoides*, *Correa reflexa*, *Phebalium stenophyllum* and *Persoonia juniperina* (AVH 2020; Carter and Downe 2006).

As with other species in the genus, *S. furculentum* is probably an obligate-seeder, with mature individuals killed by fire that also stimulates germination of soil-stored seed (Coates and Kirkpatrick 1999). Recruitment has also been observed after roadworks, indicating the species may respond to other disturbance mechanisms (Carter and Downe 2006). Seed dispersal is thought to be poor and *Spyridium* spp. cannot regenerate vegetatively (Coates and Kirkpatrick 1999; Carter and Downe 2006). Due to the apparently persistent seedbank, extreme fluctuations are not considered likely (IUCN 2019).

## IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                   | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 12 km <sup>2</sup>                         | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 12 km <sup>2</sup> (<0.1 km <sup>2</sup> ) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | <250                                       | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 1 (all threats)                            | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 3                                          | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                 | High        |
| Generation length             | Unknown                                    | Low         |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                             | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                        | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                     | High        |

## Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate population reduction relative to generation length.                                                                                                                      |
| B1ab(i-v)      | CR: EOO <100 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 1 location; and continuing decline observed in EOO, AOO, area/extent and quality of habitat, number of locations and subpopulations, and number of mature individuals. |
| C2a(i)         | CR: <250 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and 90-100% of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                                               |
| D              | EN: <250 mature individuals.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                                  |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                   | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past and ongoing</i>             | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | Land clearing has reduced and fragmented the available habitat of the species. The species is now severely fragmented as all subpopulations are small and isolated by cleared land. As all subpopulations are on roadsides or private property, further habitat loss may occur in the future. Roadworks to accommodate larger farm machinery frequently result in damage and local destruction of remnant roadside vegetation in the area (N Walsh pers. comm. 2020). |
| Introduced pathogens<br><i>Ongoing</i>              | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | <i>Spyridium furculentum</i> is susceptible to phytophthora <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> , which has been documented at all subpopulations. Phytophthora is thought to be the primary threat causing current population declines (N Walsh pers.comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Drought/climate change<br><i>Ongoing and future</i> | Whole    | Rapid      | High          | Recent declines coincide with a period of drought. Drought-induced deaths have been exacerbated due to the presence of phytophthora (N Walsh and P Rudolph pers.comm. 2020). Longer dry periods and hotter summers are predicted under climate change with medium confidence (Timbal <i>et al.</i> 2015).                                                                                                                                                             |
| Grazing (feral)<br><i>Ongoing</i>                   | Majority | Rapid      | Medium        | Rabbits are abundant at some subpopulations and are known to target seedlings (N Walsh pers. comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i>        | Minority | Rapid      | Medium        | Roadside subpopulations are vulnerable to road widening, grading, drainage channel construction, slashing and herbicide application; both known roadside subpopulations are signed but presumed extinct (see habitat loss).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Inappropriate fire regimes<br><i>Ongoing</i>        | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | Fire or disturbance is probably required for recruitment. The absence of fires to stimulate seed germination may cause population declines (Carter and Downe 2006).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Grazing (domestic)<br><i>Ongoing</i>                | Majority | Negligible | Negligible    | Three subpopulations occur on private grazing property. No recent evidence of damage to the subpopulations has been observed, and cattle mostly graze on adjacent pasture (N Walsh pers. comm. 2020).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Threat and timing                 | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>  | Whole    | Negligible | Negligible    | Sites where the species occurs are largely native vegetation; some weeds are present but effects on the species have not been documented.                                                                         |
| Human activities<br><i>Future</i> | Majority | Slow       | Low           | Apiarists collect honey from beehives amongst subpopulations of <i>S. furculentum</i> and could trample seedlings. Broombush is harvested from the roadside habitats and trampling may occur during this process. |

## Current management

- Recovery actions have been identified (Carter and Downe 2006; TSSC 2016).
- Three additional subpopulations were located during targeted surveys of nearby roadsides and private property from 2006-2017 (N Walsh pers.comm. 2020).
- In 1992, a re-introduction attempt of eight plants to a roadside remnant failed (N Walsh pers.comm. 2017).
- Seed have been collected (funded by DELWP), stored and propagated at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, with 174 individuals translocated to a Greening Australia property in 2017. Early signs of success have been observed, with 95 plants (55%) alive in 2019 including 89 that were flowering (P Rudolph pers.comm. 2020).
- All subpopulations occur on roadsides or private property that are not managed for conservation.

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Protect habitat of known subpopulations in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Increase the number of mature individuals and subpopulations in the wild via improving habitat quality and translocating the species to secure tenure.

## Information required

| Theme                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Priority |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys         | Regularly monitor subpopulations to understand population demographics, trends in response to management activities and impacts of threats.                                                                                           | High     |
| Life history and ecology   | Undertake research to better understand the life history and ecology of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes | Determine a suitable fire regime for the species to increase the number of mature individuals.                                                                                                                                        | High     |
| Introduced pathogens       | Investigate impacts of phytophthora in the field to better understand impacts and management actions.                                                                                                                                 | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                                  | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                               | Priority     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Introduced pathogens                                   | Implement and maintain disease hygiene measures at all subpopulations to reduce impact of phytophthora.                                                                                                        | High         |
| Habitat protection                                     | Protect known habitat of species in appropriate conservation agreements.                                                                                                                                       | High         |
| Infrastructure maintenance/recreation/human activities | Fence and mark any subpopulations found on roadsides to protect from road maintenance activities and minimise damage from apiarists and commercial plant harvesters.                                           | High         |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations             | Continue implementing translocation and identify potential sites for future translocation that occur on secure tenure.<br>Maintain and expand <i>ex situ</i> propagation program, including seed-banking RBGV. | High<br>High |
| Grazing                                                | Fence known subpopulations on private land to minimise impacts of grazing.                                                                                                                                     | Medium       |
| Extension and awareness                                | Raise awareness of the species with local landholders and other stakeholders (apiarists, road maintenance workers, commercial plant harvesters) to protect the species.                                        | Medium       |

## Experts consulted

Neville Walsh and Pauline Rudolph.

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## *Zieria exsul* Duretto & P.I.Forst. [RUTACEAE] Banished stinkbush



*Zieria exsul* flowers and foliage (left; image: Glenn Leiper) and straggly plant habit in heath habitat (right; image: Jen Silcock).

### Overview

*Zieria exsul* occurs on the Sunshine Coast in south-eastern Queensland and its habitat has been extensively cleared for agriculture, housing and infrastructure. The four known subpopulations occur in small remnants that are subject to a variety of threats associated with ongoing urbanisation. The largest subpopulation contains 95% of known mature individuals and occurs along a proposed transport corridor. No reserves are actively managed for this species, whose life history and disturbance requirements are poorly understood.

### Conservation status

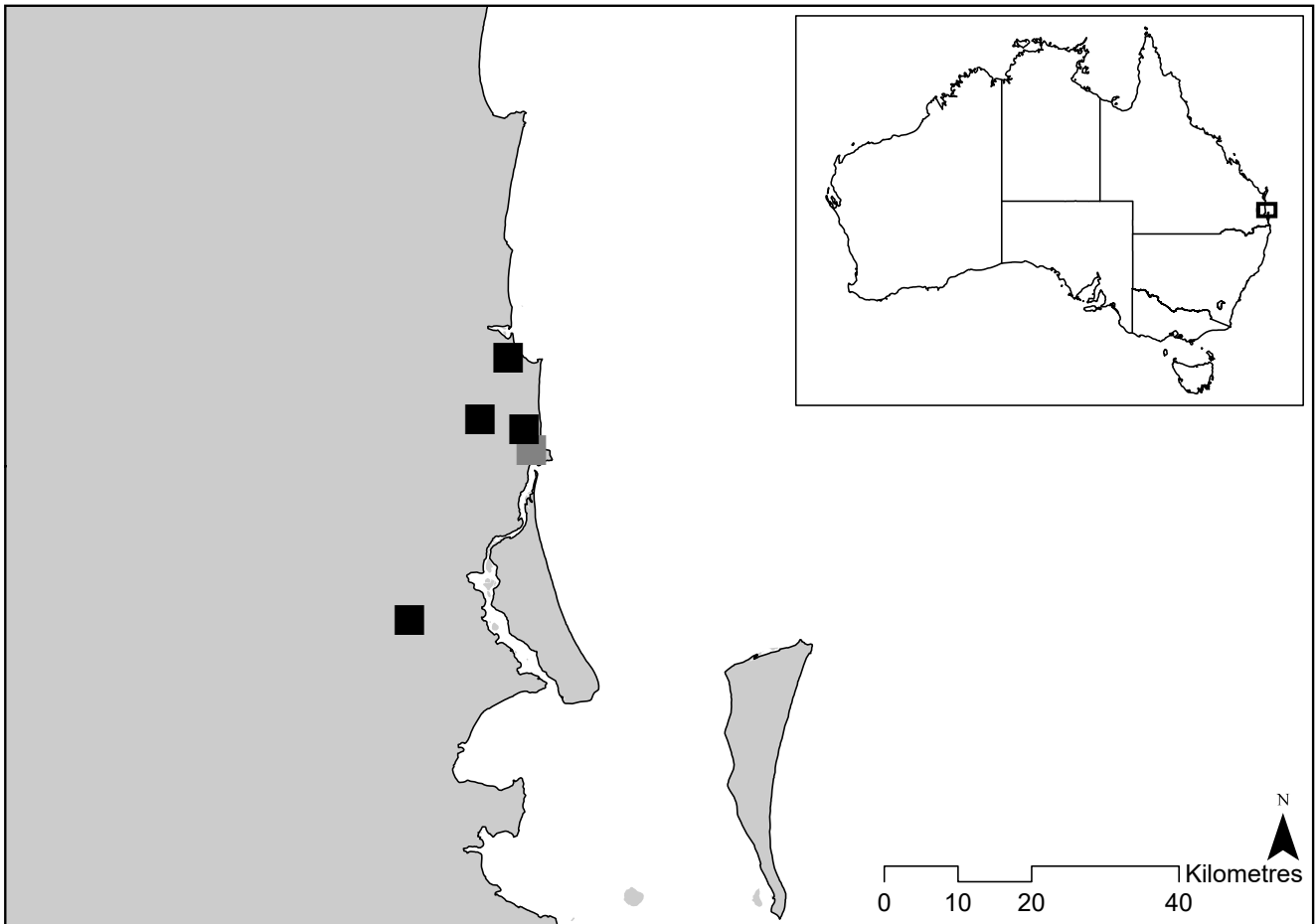
|                                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | Not listed                         |
| <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>                                  | Critically Endangered              |
| IUCN Red list (eligible)                                             | Not listed (Critically Endangered) |

### Brief description

Spindly to erect perennial shrub to 1 m tall covered with sparse to moderately dense hairs and aromatic leaves (Duretto and Forster 2007). Leaves discolorous and trifoliate; the terminal leaflet is 10-16 mm long and 2.5-5 mm wide, while the lateral leaflets are 5-12 mm long and 2-4 mm wide. Inflorescence axillary with 1-2 white flowers with four elliptic petals and triangular sepals. Seeds dark brown, oblong-ovoid, 2.8-3 mm long and 1.4-1.5 mm wide (Duretto and Forster 2007). The species is distinct and unlikely to be mis-identified. At Elimbah, the plants have fewer glands on the foliage (P Forster pers.comm. 2020).

### Distribution

*Zieria exsul* is known from Buderim, Palmview, Currimundi and Elimbah on the Sunshine Coast, in the South Eastern Queensland bioregion (Australasian Virtual Herbarium 2020; Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment 2012). A record from Caloundra collected in the 1990s (Queensland Herbarium 2020) is considered extinct (A Bean pers.comm. 2020).



Current (black squares) and historic (grey square) distribution of *Zieria exsul* in the South Eastern Queensland bioregion (shaded grey) in Queensland (AVH 2020; DAWE 2012; QH 2020).

## Population estimate and trends

*Zieria exsul* is currently known from <500 mature individuals in four subpopulations: Buderim, Palmview, Currumundi and Elimbah. All sites comprise single subpopulations (although the Buderim subpopulation is now fragmented into multiple remnants), mostly with very small numbers of plants. Individual plants can be difficult to distinguish due to roots and branches sprawling under dense leaf-litter (J Silcock pers.comm. 2020). Time-series monitoring has not been undertaken, but all subpopulations are likely to be declining due to threats associated with urbanisation.

The Buderim subpopulation comprises an estimated 450 mature individuals that occur in small patches spread over ca. 2 km of narrow and disturbed remnants. The remnants encompass a road reserve, State land and freehold land between Mountain Creek State High School, and the intersection of the Sunshine Motorway and Mooloolaba Road. *Zieria exsul* was described as 'common' when first collected here in 1992, and 34 plants including 30 seedlings were recorded in one patch in 2002. Three patches of 600 (estimated to be comprised of 400 mature individuals and >150 seedlings), 11 and 3 plants (all mature individuals) were located in 2020, and it is likely that other historical records of <5 plants from 2009-2017 persist.

Four individuals have been located between 2014-2017 at separate sites along tracks and powerlines in Palmview Conservation Park, where the species seems to be extremely rare. Eleven plants were found at Currimundi on private freehold land in 2020 (J Silcock pers.obs. 2020) and about 12 on road reserve at Elimbah (C Vaughan pers.comm. 2020). The site of a 1997 collection in Caloundra is now housing estate (A Bean pers.comm. 2020), and no further plants were found in surveys of remaining habitat in the vicinity in 2020 (J Silcock pers.comm. 2020).

There have been few systematic targeted surveys for *Z. exsul*, but a high level of botanical collection in the region. The species can be difficult to detect and the recently located subpopulation south of its known range and a large patch found at Bunderim, indicates other small subpopulations may exist (C Vaughan pers.comm. 2020).



## Habitat and ecology

*Zieria exsul* occurs sparsely in numerous heath and open-forest habitats. The majority of records are from sandy soils among wallum heathland and woodland ecotones, often between continuously wet areas and higher well-drained areas (P Forster pers.comm. 2019). At Currimundi *Z. exsul* occurs in open *Allocasuarina littoralis* riparian woodland along Currimundi Creek (QH 2020). The historical Caloundra record was from mixed eucalypt/casuarina woodland (QH 2020). Associated species include *Corymbia trachyphloia*, *C. intermedia*, *Syncarpia glomulifera*, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, *Eucalyptus siderophloia* and *E. racemosa* (QH 2020).

*Zieria exsul* flowers from spring to autumn and fruit have been collected in March and May (QH 2020). The species is fast-growing and short-lived, with individuals reaching maturity after 2 years and living for <10 years (P Forster pers.comm. 2019). Generation length is estimated to be 4 years. *Zieria exsul* is thought to germinate after fire or other disturbance before being shaded-out as surrounding vegetation recovers. The species also germinates in absence of disturbance, with numerous young plants observed at Currimundi, Elimbah and Buderim in 2020 (J Silcock, C Vaughan, pers.comm. 2020) and several seedlings emerging beneath a parent plant in cultivation (G Leiper pers.comm. 2019). Plants typically occur in small clumps, suggesting dispersal is limited. The species propagates readily from cuttings (G Leiper pers.comm. 2019).

*Zieria exsul* may represent a 'neo-endemic' species that has evolved from a stabilised hybrid between *Z. laxiflora* and *Z. minutiflora* (Duretto and Forster 2007). However, it typically co-occurs with *Z. minutiflora* only, except at Elimbah where both species are present (C Vaughan pers.comm. 2020). *Zieria exsul* produces fertile seed that does not demonstrate introgression to either parent (P Forster pers.comm. 2019).

### IUCN Red List assessment data

|                               | Estimate                                    | Reliability |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Extent of occurrence          | 130 km <sup>2</sup>                         | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| Area of occupancy (actual)    | 24 km <sup>2</sup> (2 km <sup>2</sup> )     | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| No. of mature individuals     | <500                                        | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| No. of locations (key threat) | 4 (habitat loss/infrastructure maintenance) | Medium      |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| No. of subpopulations         | 4                                           | High        |
| Trend                         | Decreasing                                  | High        |
| Generation length             | 4 years                                     | Medium      |
| Extreme fluctuations          | Not documented                              | Medium      |
| Severely fragmented           | Yes                                         | High        |
| Continuing decline            | Observed and projected                      | High        |

### Current eligibility against IUCN Red List criteria

| IUCN criterion | Criteria eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A3b            | CR: >80% population reduction projected in the future within 3 generations (12 years); based on an index of abundance appropriate to the taxon and decline in AOO and habitat quality.                                   |
| B1+2ab(i-v)    | EN: EOO <5000 km <sup>2</sup> ; AOO <500 km <sup>2</sup> ; severely fragmented and 4 locations; and continuing decline observed in EOO, AOO, area/extent/quality of habitat, number of locations and mature individuals. |
| C2a(ii)        | EN: <500 mature individuals; continuing decline observed and projected; and 95% of mature individuals in one subpopulation.                                                                                              |
| D              | VU: <1000 mature individuals; <5 locations; and plausible future threat that could drive taxon to CR or EX in a very short time.                                                                                         |
| E              | DD: insufficient data available to reliably estimate extinction probability.                                                                                                                                             |

## Threats

| Threat and timing                                  | Scope    | Severity   | Threat impact | Evidence and justification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat loss<br><i>Past and ongoing</i>            | Majority | Very rapid | High          | The habitat of <i>Z. exsul</i> has been decimated for urbanisation, forestry and agriculture. Remnant subpopulations are tiny, isolated by cleared land and considered severely fragmented. Only one subpopulation is protected in conservation estate. The Elimbah subpopulation and part of the Buderim subpopulation will be impacted during impending roadworks. Although propagation and mitigation translocation for <i>ex situ</i> conservation in botanical gardens will be undertaken (C Vaughan pers.comm. 2020), the species has not been translocated before and long-term persistence cannot be guaranteed (Silcock <i>et al.</i> 2019). The largest subpopulation (Buderim) occurs in the corridor proposed for the Sunshine Coast Mass Transit Project, flagged for construction by 2024 (Sunshine Coast Regional Council 2020). Destruction of this subpopulation would result in a 95% population reduction within three generations (12 years). |
| Infrastructure maintenance<br><i>Ongoing</i>       | Majority | Very rapid | High          | Two of four subpopulations persist in small roadside remnants that will be impacted by impending roadwork (see above) and remain vulnerable to ongoing maintenance. The largest subpopulation, containing 95% of mature individuals, occurs under powerlines and along a future transport corridor. The species occurs at four locations, as habitat loss associated with urbanisation occurs at the land tenure/ subpopulation scale.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Invasive weeds<br><i>Ongoing</i>                   | Minority | Rapid      | Medium        | Parts of the Buderim subpopulation have been overrun by weeds, notably Singapore daisy and lantana, and <i>Z. exsul</i> is persisting in small patches where weed abundance is lower. Few weeds are present at the other subpopulations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Recreation and urban impacts<br><i>Ongoing</i>     | Majority | Slow       | Low           | All subpopulations occur in heavily and increasingly urbanised areas. The Currimundi subpopulation occurs 10 m from a busy concrete walking path with informal footpaths within 1 m of plants.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Inappropriate disturbance regimes<br><i>Future</i> | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | The majority of plants occur singly or in small groups in narrow remnants where fire is suppressed or no longer possible. The species is thought to rely on fire or other disturbance to maintain its open habitat and facilitate germination, but its disturbance ecology and requirements remain poorly-understood.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Genetic diversity<br><i>Future</i>                 | Whole    | Unknown    | Unknown       | Subpopulations are fragmented with few extant individuals present at any one time. Genetic diversity is thought to be low overall (P Forster pers.comm. 2019).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## Current management

- There is no recovery plan for this species.
- This species is protected in Palmview CP, but no active management is occurring.
- Some individuals are being grown in cultivation where they readily produce fruit and fertile seed that germinates (G Leiper pers.comm. 2019).
- Plants impacted by roadworks at Elimbah and Buderim are being translocated to suitable habitat by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, where additional propagated plants will be introduced (C Vaughan pers. comm. 2020).
- A proposal has been made to plant 48 individuals propagated from the Elimbah subpopulation in suitable habitat within the Moreton Bay Regional Council local government area. The site will have a protective mechanism (e.g. a Voluntary Declaration under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*) to limit the potential for future clearing. The same protective mechanism will be placed over any individuals propagated from the impacted Buderim subpopulation (C Vaughan pers.comm. 2020).
- Cuttings from the Elimbah subpopulation are being grown for *ex situ* conservation in Queensland botanical gardens (C Vaughan pers.comm. 2020).

## Conservation objectives

- Monitor and maintain known subpopulations.
- Protect habitat of known subpopulations in appropriate conservation agreements.
- Increase the number of individuals and subpopulations by translocation into secure tenure.

## Information required

| Theme                                  | Specific actions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Priority |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Population surveys                     | Ongoing monitoring of extant populations to determine population trends and dynamics in response to threats and management actions.                                                                                                                              | High     |
|                                        | Further searching in remnant habitat, particularly along Currimundi Creek and in the vicinity of Sugarbag Road in Caloundra.                                                                                                                                     | High     |
| Life history and ecology               | Undertake research to better understand the life history, ecology and germination requirements of the species including conservation genetics, pollination, seed production and viability, germination requirements, and habitat suitability for translocations. | High     |
| Inappropriate fire/disturbance regimes | Undertake research to better understand the optimum fire regime and disturbance requirements for the long-term persistence of the species.                                                                                                                       | High     |

## Management actions required

| Theme                                      | Specific actions                                                                                                                                       | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Habitat protection                         | Protect habitat of known subpopulations along with other suitable habitat in appropriate conservation agreements where possible.                       | High     |
| Inappropriate fire regimes                 | Implement appropriate fire regimes to increase habitat quality and stimulate germination at known subpopulations.                                      | High     |
|                                            | Conduct burns at historic locations in attempts to stimulate germination.                                                                              | High     |
| <i>Ex situ</i> conservation/translocations | Maintain and expand <i>ex situ</i> subpopulation to represent the maximum range of genetic diversity possible in preparation for future translocation. | High     |
|                                            | Translocate individuals to historic locations or other suitable and secure tenure.                                                                     | High     |
| Invasive weeds                             | Control weeds at the Buderim subpopulation.                                                                                                            | High     |

## Experts consulted

Colin Vaughan, Paul Forster, Glenn Leiper, Lui Weber, Tony Bean and Jen Silcock.

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## 5. Recovery actions, research and management priorities

### 5.1 Imperilled species

Most of the 50 imperilled species have strong recovery prospects with intensive site-based management, often complemented by *ex situ* conservation and translocation efforts. For many species, this will involve a continuation and expansion of existing recovery efforts. Some species, however, have become restricted to a tiny number of plants at one or two degraded sites (e.g. *Acacia leptoneura*, *Caladenia pumila*, *Commersonia erythrogyna* and *Daviesia cunderdin*, which are all known from <5 mature individuals in highly modified habitat), and long-term recovery is wholly dependent on *ex situ* options. Observed declines of narrow-range Victorian mountain endemics *Eucalyptus ornans* and *Epilobium brunnescens* subsp. *beaugleholei* are largely due to natural events and recovery options are mostly limited to monitoring and establishing *ex situ* seedbanks and living collections.

Monitoring is a high priority for all imperilled species to inform population trends and response to threats and recovery actions. Given the restricted distribution and low population abundance of most imperilled species, monitoring will involve complete censuses conducted at regular intervals using repeatable monitoring techniques appropriate to each species. Most imperilled species would benefit from targeted research into their life history and ecology, particularly in terms of seed biology and germination requirements, seed bank ecology, appropriate disturbance/fire regimes, and susceptibility and responses to disease. Taxonomic work is required to formally describe three imperilled species: *Grevillea* sp. Gillingarra (R.J. Cranfield 4087), *Lenwebbia* sp. (Main Range P.R. Sharpe+4877) and *Pultenaea* sp. Genowlan Point (NSW 417813). Emerging molecular systematics and taxonomic research shows that some orchid species included in the Action Plan (including *Caladenia busselliana* and *Calochilus richiae*) are difficult to distinguish based on the genetic markers so far investigated (H Zimmer pers.comm. 2020). In cases where a taxon is also difficult to distinguish morphologically, further work is required to clarify taxonomic status (H Zimmer pers.comm. 2021). Clear definition and treatment of such taxa will underpin future conservation planning.

Twenty-nine imperilled species have at least part of their population protected in a reserve managed for conservation, although for 11 of these the reserves are <10 hectares and situated in highly-fragmented landscapes. Thirty-four species are restricted to small remnants (reserves, private land, road and rail reserves) in highly cleared and modified habitats. Twenty of these occur predominantly on road and/or rail reserves, highlighting the need to enhance the protection of these linear remnants, and for their appropriate management (Tulloch *et al.* 2016). Thirty species occur wholly or partly on private land, and halting further habitat loss through strengthening legislative protection and securing perpetual conservation agreements to support site-specific management is a high priority.

The most common recovery actions required to abate population declines fall under the broad banner of habitat protection, management and restoration; encompassing protection from feral, native and/or domestic herbivores (a high priority for 28 species), invasive weed control (19 species), protection from infrastructure maintenance activities (14 species), and disease management (14 species). For species affected or potentially affected by *P. cinnamomi*, this involves site hygiene measures (e.g. reducing access, foot washing facilities), phosphite spraying and ongoing monitoring of impacts, including interactions with other threats such as fire and grazing. For the five species imperilled due to myrtle rust, recovery options are currently limited to ongoing monitoring, collection of cuttings for *ex situ* propagation and potential future translocation, and research relating to the genomics of the myrtle rust pathogen, potential identification of rust-resistant genotypes, and efficacy of possible management actions to maintain wild subpopulations (Makinson *et al.* 2020).

Fire management is a high priority for 33 species, including 28 that require planned burns or other active disturbance to stimulate recruitment and/or reduce competition from surrounding vegetation. The 2019–20 wildfires stimulated recruitment of four imperilled New South Wales species: *Gentiana bredboensis*, *Hibbertia circinata*, *Pimelea cremnophila* and *P. venosa*. Despite this, all remain known from tiny populations and require ongoing post-fire monitoring and management to ensure their persistence.

Extension and liaison with stakeholders and the broader community to manage existing subpopulations and/or detect new subpopulations was a high priority for 10 species, and medium priority for a further 22 species.

*Ex situ* collections (including seed banking, seed orchards and/or living collections in botanic gardens) for insurance and potential future translocation have been established for all except 10 imperilled species. Translocations have been attempted for 22 species, and are a high priority for a further 20. Some translocated plants of 16 species are surviving, although there has been no recruitment of 14 species. For four species the numbers of surviving translocated plants are so low that the chances of establishing a self-sustaining subpopulations are minimal (Silcock *et al.* 2019). Translocated *Borya mirabilis* plants in Victoria had survived and were recruiting vegetatively, but lack of site maintenance resulted in the death of all plants by 2019 (N Reiter pers.comm. 2020). *Senecio behrianus* is the

only species where translocated plants have successfully recruited and are still surviving, in this case vegetatively at five sites (D Cook pers.comm. 2020), although plants have been in the ground for <5 years and were not included in IUCN assessments. These results highlight that translocation success is far from assured even with long-term commitment, early plant performance may not reflect longer-term performance, and that translocations must be implemented in conjunction with *in situ* recovery of wild subpopulations and *ex situ* conservation (Dillon *et al.* 2018; Monks *et al.* 2019; Silcock *et al.* 2019).

Conservation listings underpin funding priorities as well as providing a level of protection from land clearing and development activities. Correcting misalignments between jurisdictions (see Section 3.3) and achieving comprehensive and up-to-date extinction risk assessments for Australia's vascular plants (Alfonzetti *et al.* 2020) is an urgent priority to advance plant conservation.

## 5.2. Poorly-known species

Numerous potentially imperilled species were excluded from this Action Plan due to a lack of time-series monitoring data to document declines, or a lack of survey effort across the entire range of the species. For example, the long-lived trees *Atalaya collina* and *Decaspermum struckoiligum* each occur in two small remnants of dry rainforest on private land in the South Eastern Queensland and Brigalow Belt bioregions, respectively. These remnants are vulnerable to weed invasion and fire incursion and both species are suspected to be declining, but long-term monitoring data are needed to confirm this trend. The shrub *Bossiaea peninsularis* is known from two small subpopulations on roadside remnants in South Australia and is suspected to be declining due to numerous threats, but there has been no population monitoring or recent targeted surveys (D Duval pers.comm. 2020). Similarly, preliminary field surveys have found *Rhodamnia arenaria*, which is restricted to the rainforests of Cape York, is extremely susceptible to myrtle rust dieback (J Radford-Smith pers. comm. 2020). However, its habitat is largely inaccessible and the larger, southern subpopulation remains unsurveyed. The species was therefore omitted from the Action Plan as severe declines could not be confirmed across the population.

The impacts of the 2019-20 wildfires on threatened plants are still being documented and are likely to be variable depending on the disturbance ecology of the species. Some apparently rare flora are likely to germinate *en masse* following fire, which is an integral component of their life cycle. Other species that inhabit fire-refugia may have undergone significant declines due to unprecedented burn incursion. Surveys to date indicate some threatened flora that occur in sclerophyllous habitats are regenerating and have even benefited from the disturbance (G Phillips pers. comm. 2020). However targeted surveys are yet to be undertaken for many highly restricted species that had 100% of their habitat burnt in high-intensity fires, such as *Acacia saxicola* (Qld) and *Westringia cremnophila* (Vic) (M Laidlaw, J Morgan pers.comm. 2020). Most of the fire-sensitive rainforest habitat of *Auranticarpa edentata* at Forty Mile Scrub National Park in north Queensland was incinerated in 2020 and the survival of the species requires urgent evaluation.

Large numbers of highly-restricted ground orchids in the genera *Caladenia*, *Diuris* and *Prasophyllum*, as well as lesser-known genera such as *Danhatchia*, are known from very small numbers of plants in one or two locations (Swarts and Dixon 2009). However, members of these genera are cryptic and fluctuate seasonally in emergence and flowering, making trends difficult to detect without long-term data. Short-lived forbs can also be cryptic and experience extreme fluctuations in relation to seasonal conditions and disturbance, making inference of long-term trends difficult.

*Cardamine gunnii* and *C. tryssa* are known from tiny populations in modified wetland habitats in southern Australia, and are facing threats from weeds, altered hydrology and climate change. Both are considered vulnerable to extinction but can be abundant in some seasons and require further surveys and monitoring to confidently assess population trends (N Walsh pers.comm. 2018).

There are numerous species that have not been seen in recent decades, e.g. *Habernaria harroldii* in south-eastern Queensland, *Gentiana baeuerlenii* in south-eastern NSW, *Haloragis scoparia* in south-western Australia, and the aptly-named *Homoranthus elusus* in the New England Tablelands of NSW. All of these species occur in modified habitats and face ongoing threats. Such species are obviously of the highest priority for targeted surveys, research and monitoring.

## 5.3. Taxonomic uncertainty

Some potentially imperilled species remain taxonomically uncertain, notably numerous ground orchids. Orchids are disproportionately represented on the list of imperilled plants, however their taxonomy is complex and subject to ongoing debate and research (H Zimmer pers.comm. 2021). Six taxa identified as being 'category 5' by Silcock & Fensham (2018) have subsequently had their taxonomy questioned: *Caladenia macroclavia* (SA), *C. lindleyana* (Tas), *Diuris byronensis* (NSW), *Eriochilus paludosus* (SA), *Pterostylis psammophila* (SA) and *Spiranthes elytra* (SA). The taxonomic status of these taxa, and a suite of other ground orchids, needs to be validated before any conservation actions can be determined. Other examples of rare taxa that fall into this category include *Banksia vincentia* (NSW) and *Pimelea* sp. Tunbridge (TAS).



## 5.4. Future directions

This Action Plan highlights five key areas that will underpin and advance conservation of the most imperilled elements of Australia's unique flora:

1. Continue and expand site-based conservation of all imperilled species to prevent diminishment of our rich floristic heritage. Numerous recent examples show that targeted and adequately-funded recovery actions have mitigated population declines, and in some cases facilitated quite rapid increases in population abundance for some highly threatened species.
2. Ensure that monitoring is consistent, repeatable and uses species-appropriate methods, to allow confident interpretation of population trends in response to management actions.
3. Pursue targeted surveys and research on poorly-known species where threats and/or declines are inferred or suspected.
4. Support taxonomic research to clarify the status of potentially imperilled species.
5. Review this Plan in 10 years to inform the trajectory of our most imperilled plant species, encompassing the plants included here and others that may subsequently be assessed as imperilled.

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**Further information:**

<http://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au>

This research received funding from the  
Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program



National Environmental Science Programme

Cite this publication as Silcock, J., Collingwood, T., Llorens, T., Fensham R. 2020.  
Action Plan for Australia's Imperilled Plants. NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub, Brisbane.