



Depot Springs stygofauna community

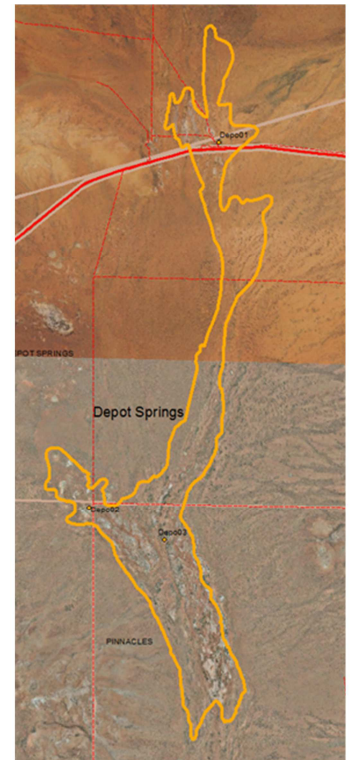
TEC Description

The community is known from the Depot Springs groundwater calcrete in Sandstone. It comprises an assemblage of stygofaunal (groundwater) species not known from anywhere else. The calcretes that support the community include those around Friday Well and Puncture Well (southern) and in the area of the shearing shed on Depot Springs Station (northern). Species restricted to this community include Dytiscidae (water beetles), *Limbodessus fridaywellensis* and *Paroster hinzeae*. The dytiscid (water beetle) species are known only from the Depot Springs calcrete, and the latter species only from Friday Well and belong to a different tribe of invertebrates (Hydroporini). Other fauna from Friday Well itself include Ostracoda (aquatic crustaceans: *Ryocypris* n. sp., *Plesiocypridopsis* n. sp., *Candonopsis* n. sp. 1), *Cyclopoida* (small crustaceans: *Halicyclops* n. sp. 2, *Apocyclops* n. sp. 1, *Metacyclops* n. sp. 1) and Harpacticoida (New genus sp. 1 (Canthocamptidae)).

Distribution

The Depot Springs stygofauna assemblage occurs within groundwater calcrete which follows the Raeside Palaeodrainage channel, spanning Depot Springs, Pinnacles and Dandaraga Pastoral Leases, between Sandstone and Leinster, north of Kalgoorlie.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Region: Goldfields
Local Government Authority: Shire of Sandstone



Habitat Requirements

The community is restricted to groundwater calcretes lying along a northern tributary of the Raeside palaeodrainage channel and is dependent on maintenance of current hydrology and water quality.

Indigenous Interests

An Aboriginal Sites Register is kept by the Department of Indigenous Affairs. According to the register significance sites occur within the vicinity of the community. Traditional owner group: Koara.

Conservation Status

Listed as vulnerable under WA Minister Environmentally Sensitive Areas list in policy.

Threatening Processes

The community is threatened by hydrological changes associated with groundwater decline.

Recovery Plan

A recovery plan is recommended for the community. Priority recovery actions include monitoring and survey of threatened stygofauna, studies to determine the hydrological requirements of the community, and regular groundwater monitoring.

Citation

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. (2020). Recovery plans and interim recovery plans <https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/threatened-species-and-communities/wa-s-threatened-ecological-communities>

Key References

Watts, C.H.S. and Humphreys, W.F. (2001). A new genus and six new species of Dytiscidae (Coleoptera) from underground waters in the Yilgarn palaeodrainage system of Western Australia. *Records of the South Australian Museum* 34(2):99-114.

Watts, C.H.S. and Humphreys, W.F. (2009). Fourteen new Dytiscidae (Coleoptera) of the genera *Limbodessus* Guignot, *Paroster* Sharp, and *Exocelina* Broun from underground waters in Australia. *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia* 133(1): 62-107.

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