

Mt Lesueur grevillea

Endangered flora of Western Australia

**If you think you've seen this plant, please call the
Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's)
Moora District on (08) 9652 1911.**

Commonly known as Mt Lesueur grevillea, *Grevillea batrachioides* is a bushy shrub to two metres tall with rounded, hairy branchlets and stiff leaves, which are divided into three to five narrow lobes. These may be further unequally divided. The leaf, which is about 1.5 centimetres long, has spreading hairs beneath and is rolled under, leaving only the midrib exposed. The red flowers are in simple inflorescences about five centimetres long at the ends of the branchlets. Each flower is on a stalk 12 to 13 millimetres long. The flower, which is 3.5 to four millimetres across, is dilated at the base and is hairy outside, with a few hairs on the inside. The ovary is also hairy. Mt Lesueur grevillea flowers from September to October.

The type specimen of Mt Lesueur grevillea was collected by James Drummond between 1850 and 1851. Until recently, Mt Lesueur grevillea was presumed to be extinct as no other specimens of the taxon had ever been collected. An unidentified specimen collected by E. A. Griffin in 1982 was recognised as Mt Lesueur grevillea. The population from which this collection had been made was relocated within Lesueur National Park in 1991, and despite many searches in areas of what appeared to be suitable habitat no other populations have been located.

Mt Lesueur grevillea grows only in the Lesueur area where it is found on a flat



The red flowers appear from September to October. Photo – Sue Patrick

sandstone outcrop in brown sandy loam on a north-west facing slope below a breakaway. Associated vegetation is dense heath with open woodland of mallee and *Banksia tricuspis* (Lesueur banksia).

As Mt Lesueur grevillea is only known from one small population with plants

occurring over a very narrow range, it was declared as rare flora in July 1992 and ranked as critically endangered when assessed in October 2000. The main threats are dieback disease caused by the plant pathogen *Phytophthora* spp., inappropriate fire regimes and recreational activities.

DEC has set up the Moora District Threatened Flora Recovery Team to coordinate recovery actions that address the greatest threats to the survival of the species in the wild (see overleaf).

Mt Lesueur grevillea is currently known from one population and DEC is keen to know of any others.

If unable to contact the District Office on the above number, please phone DEC's Species and Communities Branch on (08) 9334 0455.


Recovery of a species

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

IRPs are prepared by DEC and implemented by regional or district recovery teams consisting of representatives from DEC, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.



Department of
Environment and Conservation

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Recovery actions that have been, and will be, progressively implemented to protect the species include:

Protection from current threats:

conducting further surveys; and regular monitoring of the health of the population.

Protection from future threats:

continued implementation of the approved translocation proposal; development of a fire management strategy; preventing the introduction of dieback disease; collection and storage of seed at DEC's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanic gardens); providing information about the importance of the species to the community; and researching the biology and ecology of the species. Other actions include ensuring that relevant land managers and DEC staff are aware of the species' presence and the need to protect it, and that all are familiar with the threats identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.

Right: Mt Lesueur grevillea in full flower.
Photo – Anne Cochrane



Top: Fruit of the Mt Lesueur grevillea. Photo – Emma Richardson

Above: The habitat in Mt Lesueur National Park is under threat from dieback disease. Photo – Val English

IRPs will be deemed a success if the number of individuals within the population and/or the number of populations have increased.

This project is funded by the Australian and State governments' investment through the Natural Heritage Trust, administered in the Midwest Region by the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council.

