

# Pungent jacksonia

E n d a n g e r e d   f l o r a   o f   W e s t e r n   A u s t r a l i a

**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 or the Avon-Mortlock District on (08) 9622 8940.**

Commonly known as pungent jacksonia, *Jacksonia pungens* is distinguished by its conspicuous orange pea flowers with red markings. Flowers are surrounded by large persistent bracteoles, which splay open during flowering and then close over the developing fruit. Pungent jacksonia grows from 0.3 to one metre high and 0.4 to one metre across. The domed grey shrub is densely branched, with flowers scattered along pungent tipped branches. The pods are flattened, covered in downy hairs, and have woody valves that open before dropping. Flowering occurs from October to January. When flowering does occur, it occurs quickly and is completed within several weeks.

Pungent jacksonia was first collected in 1979 by C. Chapman in the Marchagee area. In 1996, in an extensive survey for the species, two populations were found at the site of the original collection. This survey also included many of the local conservation reserves, but no other populations were located. A survey conducted in 2007 located five more populations in the Dalwallinu area some 30 kilometres from the original collection.

Pungent jacksonia appears to be a disturbance opportunist and, occurring over a range of 20 to 30 kilometres, is only known from 12 populations. Habitat is on yellow to brown sand



*The red and orange flowers of pungent jacksonia. Photo – Benson Todd*

or gravelly lateritic soil with quartzite over chert.

Due to the continued habitat degradation and decline in plant numbers, pungent jacksonia was declared as rare flora in November 1997

and was ranked as critically endangered in November 1998. Weed invasion and inappropriate fire regimes threaten all populations, but the largest threats in the past have been due to damage during road and rail maintenance, and destruction by vehicles.

DEC has set up the Moora and Avon-Mortlock districts threatened flora recovery teams to coordinate recovery actions that address threats to the survival of the species in the wild (see overleaf).

Pungent jacksonia is currently known from 12 populations and DEC is keen to know of any others.

If unable to contact the district offices on the above numbers, 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

Our environment, our future 



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Endangered flora of Western Australia



Habitat of pungent jacksonia.  
Photo – Gina Broun

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

**Protection from current threats:** control of weeds; conducting further surveys; fence maintenance; installation of rare flora markers to mark populations on road and rail reserves; and regular monitoring of the health of each population.

**Protection from future threats:** development of both a translocation proposal and a fire management strategy; collection and storage of seed at DEC's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); and researching the biology and ecology of the species. Other actions include ensuring that relevant authorities, landowners 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.

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.



Above: Note the very sharp branches of pungent jacksonia protecting the flowers.  
Below: The shrub can grow to 0.4 metres high. Photos – Benson Todd

