

Woolly lysiosepalum

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 have seen this plant, please call the Department of Conservation and Land Management's (CALM's) Merredin District office on (08) 9041 2488, or CALM's Wildlife Branch on (08) 9334 0422.

Commonly known as woolly lysiosepalum, *Lysiosepalum abollatum* is a dense, rounded shrub about 1.5 metres tall and wide. The young growth and pinkish-purple flowers have a woolly appearance due to a covering of large, star-shaped hairs. The leaves are about 1.5 centimetres long with rolled edges and hair on both sides. Flowering occurs between June and September.

Woolly lysiosepalum grows in the shade of open mallee woodland dominated by York gum and sandplain mallee on deep red clays derived from greenstone fragments and orange-brown sandy clays with laterite gravel.

Woolly lysiosepalum is known from 141 plants in a single location on a private property near the township of Wongan Hills. Due to the extreme rarity of the species and its restricted distribution, it was declared as Rare Flora in April 2002 and is currently ranked Critically Endangered.

Grazing, cutting for didgeridoos, inappropriate fire regimes and competition from weeds each pose a threat to the species. CALM is working closely with landholders and fencing work has begun to protect the species from grazing. The population is monitored regularly, and each plant is tagged and recorded. Annual monitoring of Critically Endangered species such as woolly lysiosepalum keeps the knowledge of population health and size current and also enables CALM to identify new threats that may occur.

CALM is developing a Wongan-Ballidu Threatened Flora Management Program, which outlines recovery actions identified for this species and a range of others. CALM has also formed the Merredin District Threatened Flora Recovery Team, which coordinates recovery actions that address the threats to the survival of this species in the wild.

The species is known from a single population and CALM is keen to know of any others.



Woolly lysiosepalum's attractive flowers appear from June to September. The long hairs that give a woolly appearance can be seen on the back of one flower. Photo – J.A. Cochrane



The leaves are about 1.5 centimetres long with rolled edges and hair on both sides. Photo – J.A. Cochrane

Recovery of a Species



CALM is committed to ensuring that Declared Rare Flora does not become extinct in the wild. This is done through the preparation of a Recovery Plan (RP) or Interim Recovery Plan (IRP), that outline the recovery actions that are required to urgently address the threatening processes most affecting the ongoing survival of threatened taxa in the wild and begin the recovery process.

IRPs are prepared by CALM and implemented by regional or district recovery teams made up of representatives from CALM, the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, the Department of Agriculture, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.

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

- ongoing liaison with land managers;
- stimulation of regeneration;
- implementation of further surveys;
- regular monitoring of the health of the populations;
- collection and storage of seeds at CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre;
- maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens);
- carrying out of weed control as necessary;
- development of a fire management strategy; and
- investigation of the biology and ecology of the species.

IRPs will be deemed a success if the number of individuals within the population and/or the number of populations have increased by 10 per cent.

This poster is sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.



Woolly lysiosepalum grows in open York gum and sandplain mallee woodland.
Photo – K. Roy-Chowdhury



Woolly lysiosepalum can also be found in open areas where deep red clay soils grading to orange brown sandy clays dominate. Photo – A. Crawford



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