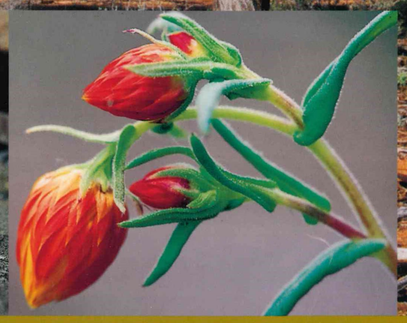
Salmon gums (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) are a well-known feature of Western Australia's Wheatbelt. Less well known is the great diversity of other species in this region, even though it has been heavily cleared for agriculture.

A four-year biological survey of the region led by scientists from the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the WA Museum has highlighted the Wheatbelt's biological richness, as well as discovering 25 new invertebrate species and six new plants. Many more species are awaiting scientific description, including a new family of crustaceans.

The survey also found that about 450 plant and 400 animal species, including aquatic invertebrates, were at risk of extinction from salinity. All remaining remnants of many valley-floor wetlands, shrublands and woodlands are also at risk.

The survey was carried out as part of the State Salinity Strategy to help guide actions to fight salinity, including fostering the development of tree crops, establishing natural diversity recovery catchments, and providing help and advice to private landholders.

www.naturebase.net



Main picture: Salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) woodland in WA's Wheatbelt. Photo - Marie Lochman

Right: Little long-tailed dunnart (*Sminthopsis dolichura*). Photo - Jiri Lochman

Middle right: Main's ground gecko (*Diplodactylus maini*). Photo - Babs and Bert Wells/CALM

Far right: Orange immortelle (*Waitzia acuminata*). Photo - Jiri Lochman

Arbor Day a day of trees 10 June 2005

Government of Western Australia
Department of Conservation and Land Management
Conserving the nature of WA