

## GOLDFIELDS WEED NOTE: YELLOWDINE SUCCULENT WEEDS

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Yellowdine townsite reserve about 20 kilometres east of Southern Cross abuts Yellowdine Nature Reserve, Duladgin Nature Reserve and Codarning Rock Nature Reserve. The townsite reserve contains the old townsite of Yellowdine, now derelict and largely demolished, leaving the area as regenerating Eucalypt woodland and some still bare areas below Yellowdine Rock.

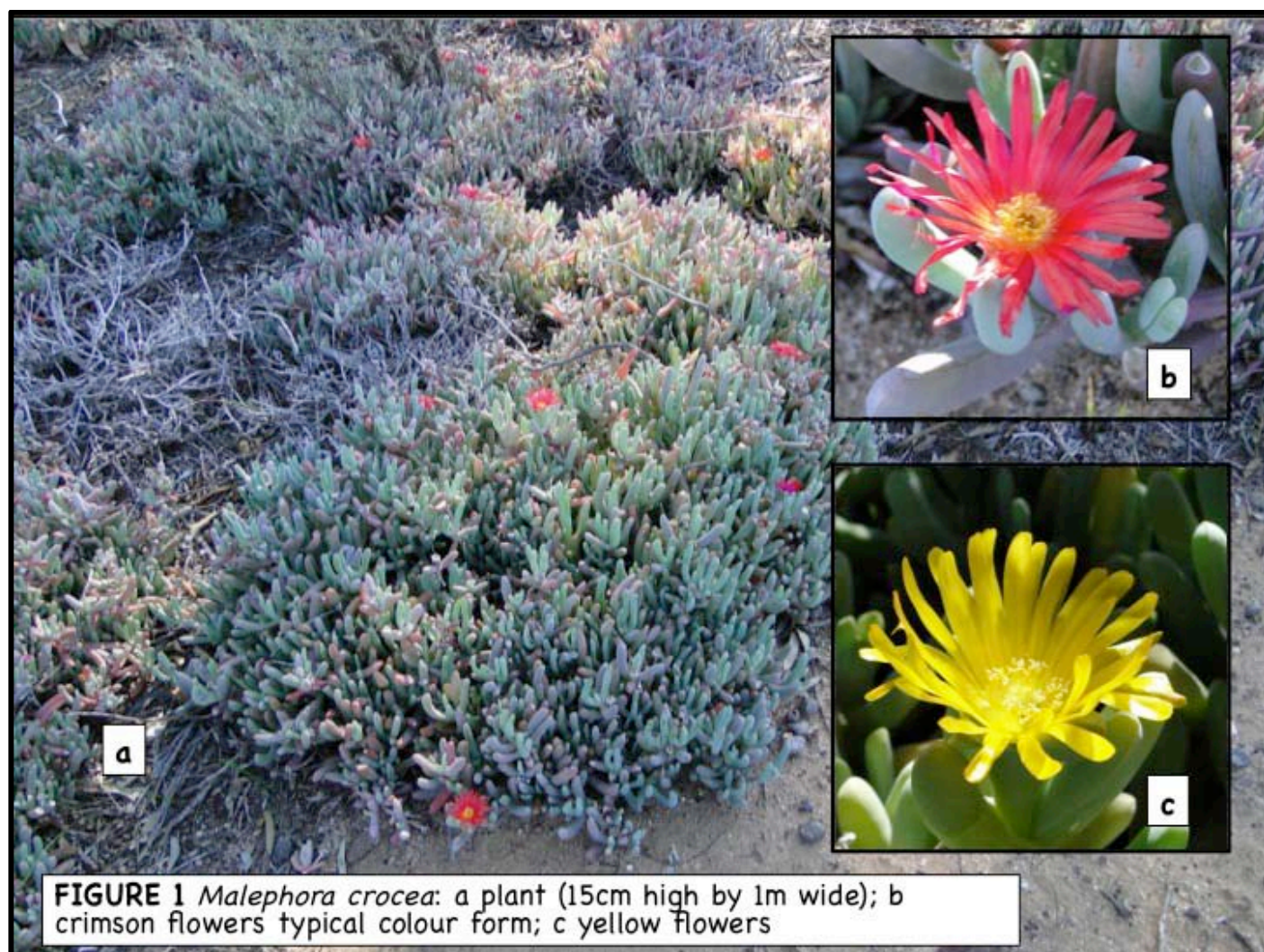
Within the Townsite are numerous weeds. These weeds contain both common and rare components of the Wheatbelt and Goldfields weed flora. Common components include: *Avena barabata*, *Pentaschistis airioides*, *Agave Americana*, *Sisymbrium runcinatum* and *Micropterum papillosum*.

Of particular interest are:

- (i) three succulents, two rare components (*Maleophora crocea* and *Opuntia monacantha*) and one common element (*Opuntia stricta*) of the weed flora; and
- (ii) a population of *Asparagus asparagoides* (Bridal Creeper), well east of its normal range.

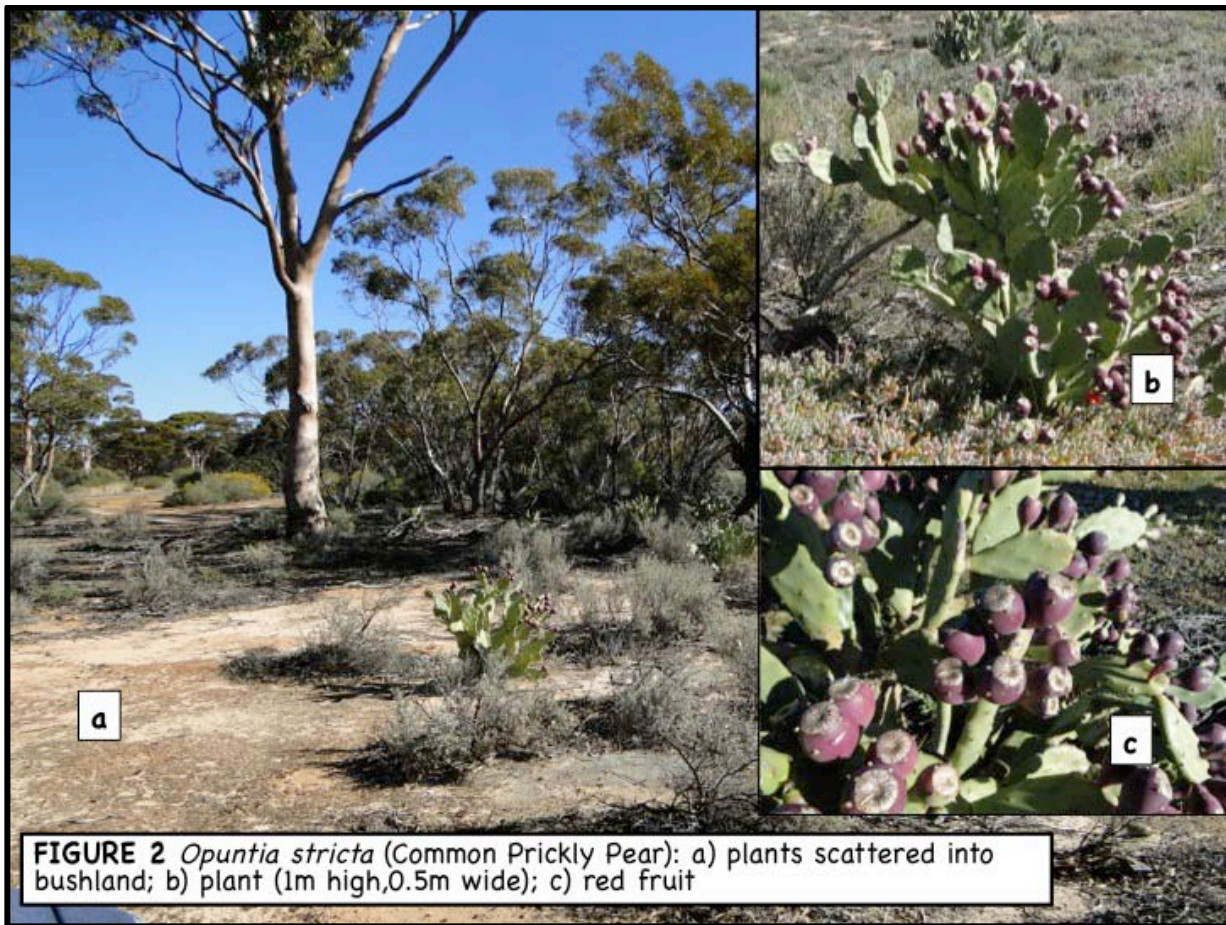
### *Maleophora crocea*

The population of *Maleophora crocea*, a prostrate pigface, is a new record for a naturalized species for Western Australia (Figure 1). Two colour forms were observed, the typical crimson (Figure 1b) and a rarer yellow (Figure 1c) flowered form. The population is about 100 metres west of the Marvel Loch to Yellowdine Road by the Pipeline.



*Opuntia stricta*

Scattered through the entire townsite reserve and extending 500 metres west along the pipeline track and into the adjacent woodland of Codarning Rock NR are plants of *Opuntia stricta* (Figure 2).



Plants typically reproduce from segments/offshoots (Figure 3a), however most plants had many fruit (Figure 2b &c) which appeared to contain fertile seed. The fruits were observed (Figure 3b) to be eaten and the animals responsible may be distributing seed.



*Opuntia monacantha*

There were also a number of large *Opuntia monacantha* plants (Figure 4) in the area both east and west of the Marvel Loch Road.



Control

The populations of *Maleophora crocea*, *Opuntia monacantha*, *Opuntia stricta*) and *Asparagus asparagoides* are in need of urgent action to control and to prevent spreading. Care should be taken to follow up on offshoot and seedlings after initial control.