
REEDIA SPATHACEA F.MUELL.: PHYLOGEOGRAPHY AND POPULATION STRUCTURE

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Reedia spathacea F.Muell is a critically endangered species of sedge (Cyperaceae) found in the peat swamps of the Jarrah Forest and Warren Biogeographical Regions of Western Australia. *Reedia* has been identified as a Gondwanan relict species on the basis of some morphological and genetic evidence. Characteristics of relictual taxa in the south-west include being of Gondwanan or Pangaeian origin, thus having become restricted to mesic habitats from a previously wider distribution and retaining some ancestral morphological states. They also are expected to have high beta genetic diversity with relatively low alpha diversity and deep phylogenetic distinction from sister taxa. Exploration of these criteria through microsatellite analyses will be presented. If this study supports the recognition of *Reedia* as a highly-restricted relict then the genetic consequences of historical population decline or extinction can be addressed.

Student presenter



Jessica has a degree in conservation and wildlife biology from ECU, and remained with the university to complete her masters research. She has a keen interest in comparative phylogeography, threatened species conservation and how the two can work together in management practice.



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