BOTANICAL SURVEY WITH THE AID OF VOLUNTEERS A STUDY OF THE VEGETATION ON A MURCHISON STATION

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Burnerbinmah is a station in the Murchison Region of Western Australia, purchased by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) in 1995. It lies within the Austin Botanical District of the Eremaean Botanical Province, in which the vegetation is predominantly mulga low woodland (*Acacia aneura*) on plains, with scrub on hills. Twelve land systems are represented on the station, with a wide range of plant communities, including mulga and mallee woodlands, spinifex sandplain, fresh water and saline wetlands. The predominance of the mulga association in the area is reflected in the fact that 26 species of *Acacia* occur on Burnerbinmah

During work on a Wildlife Management Program for Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the CALM Geraldton District in 1966, opportunity arose to survey the flora on Burnerbinmah. The programs provide information for management and protection of declared rare flora (Threatened Flora) and poorly known flora (Priority Flora) in Western Australia. 37 Threatened Flora and 264 Priority Flora are listed for the District. Burnerbinmah lies in the inland pastoral section, which had no conservation reserves until the purchase. It was therefore important to discover Threatened and Priority Taxa occurring there and to learn more about the vegetation.

Landscope Expeditions, offered by the CALM publication Landscope, and the University of Western Australia Extension program, provide paying volunteers with opportunity to work on CALM research projects. Three Landscope Expeditions, over three seasons, and an expedition with the WA Naturalists Club, completed 18 days of survey work, establishing quadrats and making general collections. 535 taxa were recorded and 9 Priority taxa found, with records of range extensions, poorly collected and undescribed taxa. The work also extends other monitoring programs throughout the region, and provides a data set for future assessment of grazing reduction on the vegetation. This would not have been possible without the considerable input of volunteers.