

Western Australian Flora Statistics

Current Statistics - Vascular Flora - June 2012

Table 1. Analysis of the size of vascular plant divisions for various categories of name

Category	Pteridophytes	Gymnosperms	Monocots	Dicots	Total
Total names ^A	141	38	3758	16341	20278
Non-current names ^B	34	14	1110	4523	5681
Current names ^C	107	24	2648	11818	14597
Species with infraspecies ^K	7	0	147	962	1116
Current taxa ^D	100	24	2501	10856	13481
Current alien taxa	8	7	361	848	1224
Current native taxa	92	17	2140	10008	12257
Current species ^E	98	24	2342	9883	12347
Current alien species	8	7	353	837	1205
Current native species	90	17	1989	9046	11142
Manuscript names ^F	0	0	35	156	191
Phrase names ^G	0	0	265	1101	1366
Published species ^H	98	24	2069	8758	10949
Published alien species ^I	8	7	353	834	1202
Published native species ^J	90	17	1716	7924	9747
Named hybrids ^L	0	0	28	33	61
Un-named hybrids	0	0	2	18	20

Data sourced on 1st June 2012. Compare with [the 2011 figures](#).

The terms *taxa* here refers to entities at species level and below; and *species* refers only to those entities at species rank.

^A - total number of vascular plant names in the database

^B - number of synonymous, excluded or misapplied names (ie. plant names no longer in current use, at least in WA)

^C - number of currently accepted plant names (ie. includes the species-level name when infra-species exist)

^D - number of currently accepted taxa (ie. excludes the species-level name when infra-species of that taxon exist)

^E - number of currently accepted species (ie. only the species-level names, excludes any infra-species names)

^F - number of proposed but unpublished taxa (ie. informal names proposed on specimens or in manuscripts)

^G - number of assigned but unpublished taxa (ie. informal names assigned to specimens for further analysis)

^H - number of formally published species names (ie. formally published names described in botanical literature)

^I - number of published naturalised alien species (ie. formally published names of weed species occurring in WA)

^J - number of published species native to Western Australia (ie. formally published names of native WA species)

^K - number of species with subordinate current taxa (subspecies, varieties and formas).

^L - number of current names recorded in the Census denoting taxa which are named hybrids or un-named hybrid formulae.

2012 Highlights

For the vascular plants, a brief comparison of the 2012 data with 2011 data shows:


- the addition of 179 vascular plant names to the Census of Western Australian Plants database;
- there are 51 additional taxa recognised as occurring in the State: 45 native taxa and 6 naturalised taxa;
- the number of published species rose by 61 to 10,949, including 56 native species and 5 naturalised species;
- a decrease, for the fifth consecutive year, in the number (-18) of manuscript names in current use, down to 191, due either to their formal publication or their conversion to phrase names as part of the Australian Plant Census project;
- a small increase (+15) in the number of phrase names in current use, up to 1,366;
- therefore, for the second year in succession, there has been a small decrease (-3) in the number of putative taxa yet to be researched and published, from 1,560 in 2011 to 1,557 in 2012;
- the addition, for the first time, of figures for the number of named and putative hybrid species recorded in the Census.

Other Collections Statistics

Data sourced on Friday, 1 June 2012. Other core statistics often required for citation in various works include the number of:

- specimens now held in the WA Herbarium Specimen Database (WAHERB) = 733,578
- names now held in the WA Herbarium Census of WA Plants Database (WACENSUS) = 29,468
- accessions now held in the WA Herbarium Library Database (WALIB) = 23,741
- images now held in the WA Herbarium Image Collection = 37,885
- composite images illustrating taxa in FloraBase = 6,970

Compiler's Note

 While the current contents are manual concatenations of census data, or static tables drawn from recent published works, it is intended that future versions of this page will contain live flora statistics drawn directly from the constantly maintained datasets held at the Western Australian Herbarium. At that time we would also seek to disseminate the standard logic behind the accurate calculation of these statistics. In this way, not only will the latest figures be available at all times, but the correct methodology for calculating and applying those figures will become better understood.

Compiled by [Alex Chapman](#); last updated on 8 June 2012.

Related content

- [2012 Highlights](#)
- [Preliminary Statistics - Cryptogams](#)
- [A summary of Floristics and Endemism in WA](#)
- [New systematic family sequence](#)

Did you notice?

There is, in general, a diminishing relationship between figures in subsequent rows of the table, as figures in each category are subtracted from the ones above.
Eg. in each column: $A - B = C$.

Having trouble deciding...

... the most appropriate data for your purpose? **The highlighted rows** are the recommended figures if you need:

- to cite the actual number of known vascular plant entities in WA ^D, or
 - a conservative estimate of the number of well-documented vascular plant species ^H.
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Western Australian Herbarium

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