

Documenting and conserving local diversity within and beyond Perth

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Several decades of detailed floristic study of the Swan Coastal Plain biogeographic region (including Perth) have revealed a wealth of new, often rare and poorly known biodiversity at all levels. Description and conservation of this diversity involves reporting at a variety of levels, including cabinet briefings, whole of Government plans, court cases, statutory plans, scientific papers and reports, and verbal presentations in the field on bushland walks or inspections for international, national, state and local groups. Several examples of these will be briefly mentioned. While work aimed at conservation has progressed, the delineation of new taxa recognised during these studies has continued in the background, including the naming of obvious new taxa and the recognition of significant populations. Other species contain numerous variants that extend beyond the Swan Coastal Plain and to understand the limits of these taxa requires the redescription of all populations to define those that are potentially rare and/or restricted. Species complexes of note include such well known, recently reviewed and common species such as *Grevillea thelemanniana*, *Hovea trisperma*, *Bossiaea eriocarpa* and *Samolus repens*. Variation within *Melaleuca systema*, a coastal taxon revised in 1999, extending from Shark Bay to Albany, will be described as the main example. The ‘species’ as we currently understand it consists of six closely related taxa, two widespread taxa—one from Dongara to Albany and the other from Kalbarri to Shark Bay—and four other restricted taxa—one restricted to the Burma Road area, another to the eastern Wheatbelt, and two highly restricted and endangered species from limestone soils (Mucnea limestones, near Bunbury, and massive hills north of Perth) of the Swan Coastal Plain.



Program and Abstracts

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