

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

Piawaning clawflower

E n d a n g e r e d F l o r a o f W e s t e r n A u s t r a l i a

If you think you have seen this plant, please call the Department of Conservation and Land Management's (CALM's) Merredin District office on (08) 9041 2488, or Wildlife Branch on (08) 9334 0422.

Piawaning clawflower (*Calothamnus accedens*) was first discovered by T.J.Hawkeswood in 1980 on the road verge between Piawaning and Wongan Hills while on a field trip to search for another *Calothamnus* species. Closer examination revealed that it was an undescribed species. Piawaning clawflower was introduced to botanical enthusiasts in 1984 when it was formally described in *Nuytsia*. In his notes, Hawkeswood recorded that despite extensive surveys in the Wongan Hills area, he had not located any other populations of the species and the single known population of 14 plants on a narrow road verge was very precarious.

In 1986, an officer from CALM visited the site and she noted that the road verge was extremely degraded and covered in dense weeds and, after an intensive search, reported that the Piawaning clawflower did not appear to be present.

Two years later, a wildlife officer from CALM also visited the site of the Piawaning clawflower and reported weed slashing had been undertaken but the plants could still not be located.

Subsequent surveys of this location have failed to report any signs of plants.

In the nine years following the taxon's discovery and presumed extinction, botanists searched for the plant many times but failed to find any existing populations. As a result of these failed attempts to locate the Piawaning clawflower, it was placed on the list of Presumed extinct taxa.

In *Calothamnus accedens*, the word 'accedens' means 'approximating' or 'resembling'. It is closely related to *Calothamnus brevifolius* and *Calothamnus hirsutus*, which also occur in this area. Piawaning clawflower was found in sandy soil over laterite associated with *melaleuca scabra* and *Acacia* species.

Piawaning clawflower is a slender, erect shrub up to 1.8 metres high, with many branches. The leaves are densely crowded at the ends of its branches, which have prominent leaf and bud scars lower down. Each leaf is 10 to 15 millimetres long and up to one millimetre wide, stalkless, stiff and linear. There are short clusters of four to 10 flowers on the lower part of the stem. These are usually on one side, but sometimes almost encircle the stem. The bell-shaped calyx tube is densely hairy at the base, with shorter and sparser hairs higher up. Flowers have five



The leaves of Piawaning clawflower are clustered at the ends of branches, and old leaf and bud scars can be seen on the bare stems.

Line drawing – Sue Patrick

narrow, orange to brown petals up to seven millimetres long, and five equal staminal claws, 20 to 25 millimetres long, which are pinkish red to dark crimson. The fruits are a depressed globe shape or cylindrical, and have five short lobes. They are five to six millimetres long and six to eight millimetres wide and are densely hairy at first.

Calothamnus accedens is presumed extinct, but it may still be surviving in remnant bushland somewhere. Perhaps on your property!

Piawaning clawflower



Dried herbarium specimen of Piawaning clawflower.
Photo – J.R. Barber

This poster was prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.



Dried herbarium specimen of Piawaning clawflower. Photo – J.R. Barber



Hairy clawflower (*Calothamnus hirsutus*), a close relative of Piawaning clawflower. Photo – Mike Hislop



Natural Heritage Trust
Helping Communities Helping Australia