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Blunt wattle

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 Moora District office of the Department of Conservation and Land Management on (08) 9652 1911.

Commonly known as Blunt wattle, *Acacia aprica* ms is an open multi-stemmed shrub to 2 m tall with smooth grey bark, an open canopy and zig-zag branches. The phyllodes (flattened leaf stalks that function as leaves) are dull, medium-green, 6 to 14 cm long by 1 to 1.4 mm wide and have eight parallel nerves. The inflorescences are golden, globular to oblong and hang two per axil. Flowering occurs between June and August.

Blunt wattle is closely related to thread-leaf wattle (*Acacia filifolia*), which has narrower, slightly incurved rounded-quadrangular phyllodes, and to coloured-leaf wattle (*Acacia alocophylla*). It has also been confused with string-leaf wattle (*Acacia merinthophora*), which it resembles in habit, but has a different distribution.

Blunt wattle is endemic to the Carnamah-Coorow area of Western Australia, and was first collected by J. Green in 1957 from an area south of Carnamah. It is known from just seven populations, and has a range of approximately 10 km. Of the seven populations, five consist of ten plants or fewer, and most are found in highly disturbed heath on road reserves. The species is found on gravelly brown clayey sand, often with surface quartz.

As most populations occur in highly disturbed situations and the species is affected by loss and fragmentation of habitat, *Acacia aprica* ms was declared as Rare Flora in November 1997 and ranked as Critically Endangered in November 1998.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (the Department) has set up the Moora District Threatened Flora Recovery Team to coordinate recovery actions that address the greatest threats to the survival of the species in the wild (see overleaf).

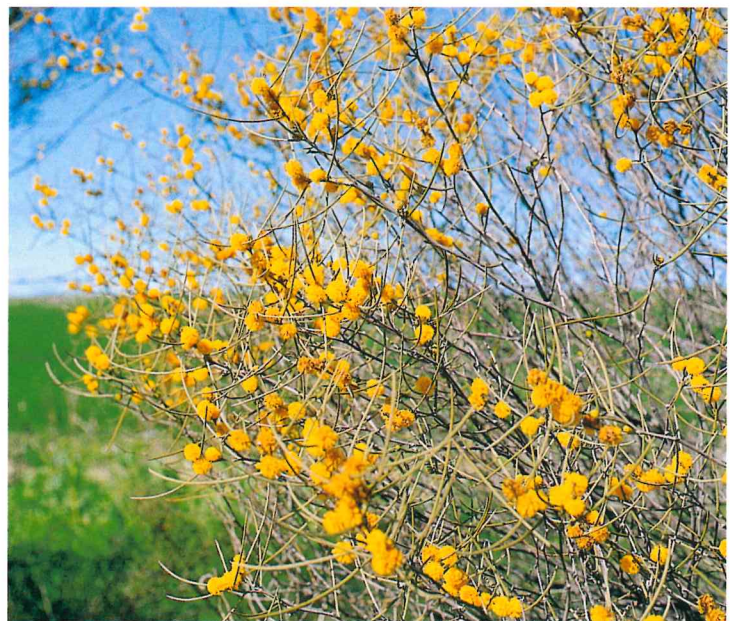
The main threats are weed invasion, road and firebreak maintenance and inappropriate fire regimes.

The species is currently only known from seven populations and the Department is keen to know of any others.

If unable to contact the district office on the above number, please phone the Department's Wildlife Branch on (08) 9334 0422.



The golden flowers of blunt wattle. Photo – Andrew Brown



Blunt wattle in full flower. Photo – Gillian Stack

Recovery of a Species



The Department is committed to ensuring that Critically Endangered taxa do not become extinct in the wild. This is done through the preparation of a Recovery Plan or Interim Recovery Plan (IRP), which outlines the recovery actions that are required to urgently address those threatening processes most affecting the ongoing survival of threatened taxa in the wild and begin the recovery process.

IRPs are prepared by the Department and implemented by Regional or District Recovery Teams consisting of representatives from the Department, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.

Blunt wattle

Recovery actions that are being implemented are:

Protection from current threats: control of weeds; conducting further surveys; and regular monitoring of the health of the populations.

Protection from future threats: continued implementation of the approved translocation proposal; development of a fire management strategy; collection and storage of seed at the Department's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanic gardens); and researching the biology and ecology of the species. Other actions include ensuring that relevant authorities, landowners and the Department's personnel are aware of the species' presence and the need to protect it, and that all are familiar with the threats identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.

IRPs will be deemed a success if the number of individuals within the population and/or the number of populations have increased.

This poster is sponsored by the Endangered Species Program of the Natural Heritage Trust.



Habitat of blunt wattle. Photo – Sue Patrick



Blunt wattle in full flower. Photo – Gillian Stack

