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Phalanx grevillea

003988

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
CALM Merredin District on (08) 9041 2488.**

Commonly known as phalanx grevillea, *Grevillea dryandroides* subsp. *dryandroides* is a low growing suckering shrub to 50 centimetres high. It has dull yellow-green leaves with leaflets that are 5 to 12 millimetres long. Individual flowers are pink to orange-pink, 3 to 4 centimetres in length and are on stalks 1 to 1.5 millimetres long. Flowering occurs between September and March.

This bird-pollinated subspecies is usually found in colonies of what first appear to be many individual plants, but which are in fact numerous suckers from underground stems. It differs from hairy phalanx grevillea (*Grevillea dryandroides* subsp. *hirsutus*) in having smooth leaves with lobes that are less than 12 millimetres long.

Phalanx grevillea is known from a few locations near Ballidu. It grows in open heathland and banksia woodland, usually in yellow sandy loam over laterite.

Due to the rarity of the subspecies and its small area of distribution, it was declared as Rare Flora in October 1996 and ranked as Critically Endangered in February 1997.

Threats include weed invasion, inappropriate fire regimes and accidental destruction from road and railway maintenance.

CALM has set up the Merredin District Threatened Flora Recovery Team to coordinate recovery actions that address threats to the survival of the subspecies in the wild (see overleaf).

The subspecies is currently known from only a few populations and CALM is keen to know of any others.

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



The pink to orange-pink flowers of phalanx grevillea are arranged in dense elongated flower heads.
Photo – Leonie Monks



Phalanx grevillea is a low growing, suckering plant. Photo – Leonie Monks

Recovery of a Species



CALM 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 (RP) 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 CALM and implemented by Regional or District Recovery Teams consisting of representatives from CALM, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.

Phalanx grevillea

Recovery actions that have been, and will be, progressively implemented to protect the subspecies include:

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

Protection from future threats: the development of both a translocation proposal and a fire management strategy; the maintenance of buffers of natural vegetation around populations; collection and storage of seed at CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (in botanical gardens); and researching the biology and ecology of the subspecies. Other actions include ensuring that relevant authorities, landowners and CALM personnel are aware of the subspecies' 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.



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The inflorescence of phalanx grevillea is found on the end of the long trailing stems.
Photo – Leonie Monks



Phalanx grevillea is found growing in open, degraded habitat near Ballidu. Photo – Leonie Monks



Department of Conservation and Land Management