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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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# Prickly Honeysuckle

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've seen this plant, please call  
CALM Esperance District on (08) 9071 3733**

Commonly known as prickly honeysuckle, *Lambertia echinata* subsp. *echinata* was named in 1810 by noted botanist Robert Brown, who discovered the subspecies in the Esperance area.

Prickly honeysuckle is a many-branched shrub up to 1 m tall. The leaves are up to 4 cm long and usually have five sharply pointed lobes, with a prominent vein underneath.

Flowering is between September and January, when dark pink to red trumpet-shaped flowers to 5 cm long are produced.

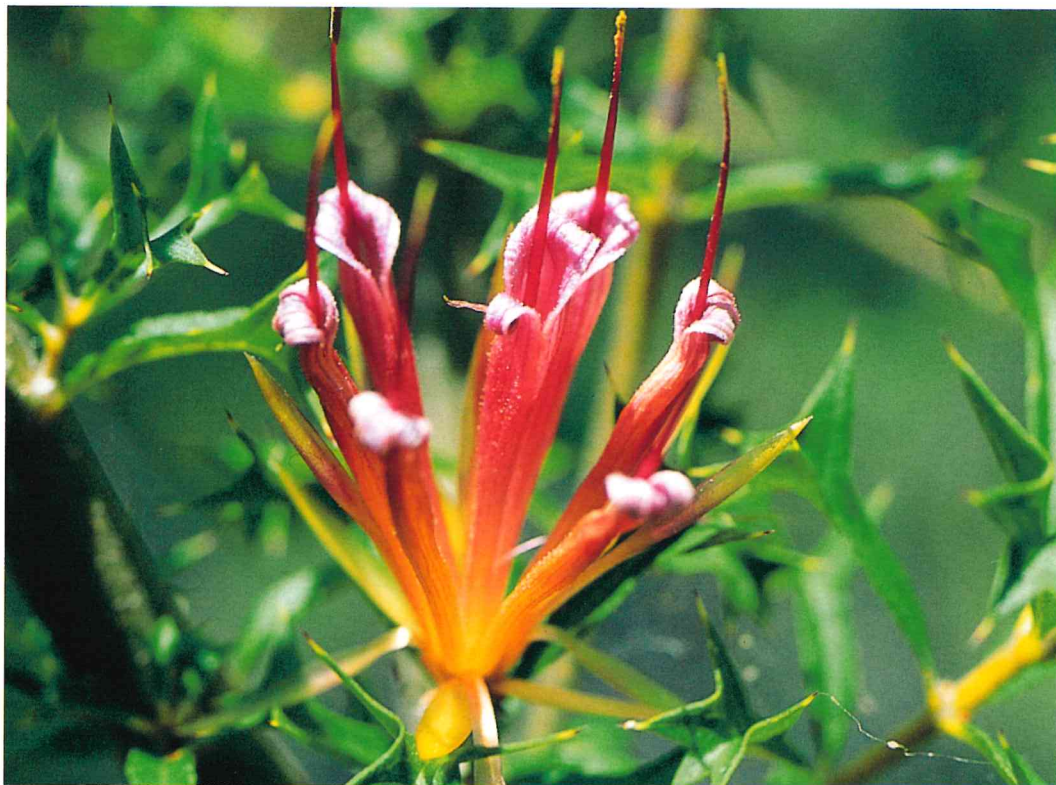
Prickly honeysuckle is found growing on lateritic and sandy-clay soils on windswept rocky coastal slopes to the east of Esperance.

The subspecies was ranked as Critically Endangered in 1995 and CALM has since been co-ordinating recovery actions addressing the most threatening factors affecting its survival in the wild. (See overleaf.)

Threats include poor survival of seedlings, the death of some adult plants through old age or dieback, and an extremely small population size (just three plants are known).

Prickly honeysuckle is currently known from a single population and we are 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.



This subspecies is readily recognised by its dark pink to red trumpet-shaped flowers. Photo – A. Brown



A mature plant showing the mixture of old and new leaves. Photo – E. Holland

## 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, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, community groups, private landowners, local Shires and various government organisations.

# Prickly Honeysuckle

## Essential recovery actions that have been implemented to protect the subspecies include:

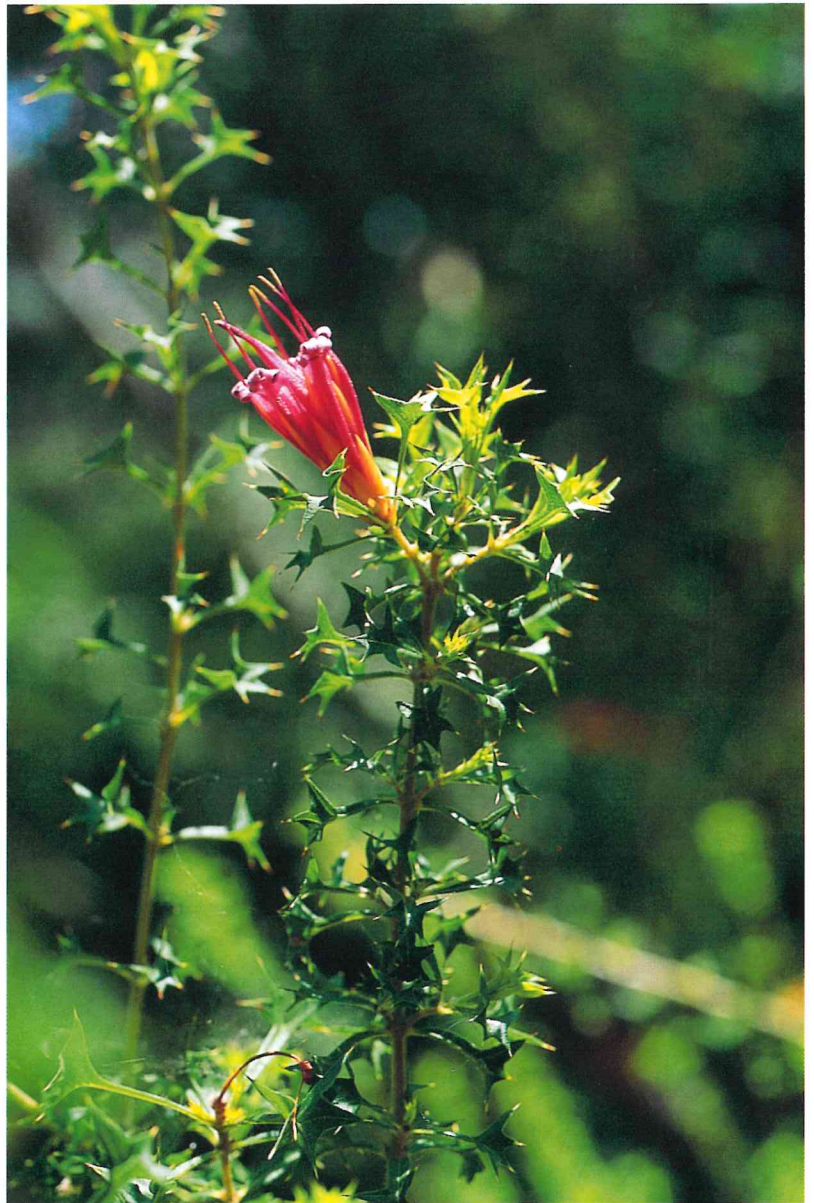
**Protection from current threats:** The erection of signs that mark the site of the population; the control of introduced weeds; the development of a fire protection plan; the maintenance of dieback hygiene; and the regular monitoring of the health of the population.

**Protection from future threats:** Ensuring that relevant authorities, land owners and CALM personnel are aware of the subspecies and the need to protect it; and that all are familiar with the threatening processes identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.

## Desirable recovery actions, which are progressively being implemented, include:

The collection of seed; the maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); the maintenance of buffers of natural vegetation around the population; conducting further surveys; researching the biology and ecology of prickly honeysuckle; and enhancing plant numbers by removal of weeds, amelioration of some other limiting factor, or by direct propagation and translocation techniques.

This IRP will be deemed a success if essential recovery actions have been implemented, and identified threatening processes have been removed within three years of its approval.



A healthy plant cultivated at Kings Park and Botanic Garden. Photo – A. Brown

IRPs will be deemed a success if essential recovery actions have been implemented, and identified threatening processes have been removed within three years of their approval.



Prickly honeysuckle is found on windswept, rocky coated slopes to the east of Esperance. Photo – A. Brown

