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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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# Prostrate flame pea

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 Moora District on (08) 9651 1424.**

Prostrate flame pea, *Chorizema humile*, is a low growing shrub that spreads to 60 centimetres in diameter, with many slender stems that are ridged with scattered hairs radiating from a central root. The leaves are 4 to 16 millimetres long by 2.5 to 5 millimetres wide and are arranged alternately along the stem. Clusters of pea flowers are held on the ends of the branchlets. Each cluster is composed of up to 30 flowers. The petals are yellow with red-brown markings. The standard petal is up to 9 millimetres long. The pea flowers appear between July and September.

Prostrate flame pea was first collected near Cue in 1931 by W.E. Blackall. In August 1995, the taxon received intensive survey work in and around the Strawberry, Carnamah and Coorow areas. Although none of the previously recorded populations in the Cue to Dowerin area were relocated, a new population was found.

Prostrate flame pea is currently known from three locations within the Carnamah and Moora areas. It is found on red loam or brown sandy clay plains in scrub or open tree mallee.

Due to a small area of occupancy, severe fragmentation of populations and a continuing decline in the condition of its habitat, the species was declared as Rare Flora in October 1996 and ranked as Critically Endangered in 1998.

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

The main threats are grazing and trampling, road maintenance activities, weed competition, inappropriate fire regimes and lack of recruitment.

The species is currently only known from three 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.



Dense clusters of flowers of prostrate flame pea. Photo – Anne Cochrane



The yellow pea flowers with red-brown markings. Photo – Diana Papenfus

## 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.



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

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

**Protection from future threats:** the development of both a translocation proposal and a fire management strategy; 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 species. Other actions include ensuring that relevant authorities, landowners and CALM 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.



The ground hugging form of prostrate flame pea. Photo – Emma Holland

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 habitat of prostrate flame pea. Photo – Emma Holland



Department of Conservation and Land Management