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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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# Scaly-leaved featherflower

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 Moora District on (08) 9651 1424**

The scaly-leaved featherflower (*Verticordia spicata* subsp. *squamosa*) is an attractive compact shrub to 80 cm tall and 1 m wide, with rounded to elliptic-shaped leaves, each of which has prominent oil glands. It produces masses of pinkish-white feathery flowers at the ends of its branches during late spring and early summer (October to December).

*Verticordia spicata* subsp. *squamosa* differs from *Verticordia spicata* subsp. *spicata* in its smaller flowers and leaves.

The subspecies is found growing in deep yellow sand in low scrub among open mallee.

It was first found east of Three Springs in 1974. Since then only four, mostly small populations have been located.

Scaly-leaved featherflower was ranked as Critically Endangered in 1995.

CALM has set up the Moora District Threatened Flora Recovery Team to co-ordinate recovery actions addressing the most threatening processes affecting the species' survival in the wild (See overleaf).

Only a few small populations of this attractive featherflower are known 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.



A plant in full flower in early January. Photo – Anne Cochrane



The beautiful pinkish-white flowers of scaly-leaved feather flower. Photo – Emma 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.



# Scaly-leaved featherflower

**Essential recovery actions that have been implemented to protect the species include:**

**Protection from current threats:** The erection of signs that mark the site of each population; control of introduced weeds; erection of fences to exclude stock; development of a fire protection plan and regular monitoring of the health of each population.

**Protection from future threats:** Ensuring that relevant authorities, land owners and CALM personnel are aware of the species' presence 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:**

Conducting further surveys, rehabilitation of areas in and around populations of scaly-leaved featherflower; collection and storage of seed in CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); researching the biology and ecology of the scaly-leaved featherflower, and enhancing plant numbers by removal of weeds, amelioration of some other limiting factor, or by direct propagation and translocation techniques.

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.



A white flowered specimen. Photo – Emma Holland



Habitat of Scaly-leaved featherflower. Photo – Emma Holland

