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Sprawling spiky adenanthos

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 Katanning District on (08) 9821 1296.**

Commonly known as sprawling spiky adenanthos, *Adenanthos pungens* subsp. *effusus* is usually a low-growing shrub to 25 centimetres in height and 3 metres across. It has hairy branchlets and rigid, sharply pointed leaves to 3 centimetres long that are usually divided into 3 segments. Pale pink to red flowers are clustered on the ends of its branchlets and appear from August to November.

Although it is similar in leaf and flower shape, this subspecies can be distinguished from spiky adenanthos (*Adenanthos pungens* subsp. *pungens*) by its ground-hugging habit and flower colour. However, erect, semi-erect and prostrate plants grow within a single large population of *Adenanthos pungens* subsp. *pungens* in the wheatbelt. Separation into separate subspecies may therefore not be warranted.

Sprawling spiky adenanthos is known from two populations near Tambellup and Katanning. It prefers areas of deep, white sand in scrub of *Banksia*, *Melaleuca* and *Regelia*.

Due to the rarity of the subspecies and its small range of distribution, it was declared as Rare Flora in May 1991 and ranked as Critically Endangered in 1998.

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

Threats include dieback (caused by plant pathogens), weed invasion, inappropriate fire regimes, drift of agricultural chemicals and accidental destruction from road and rail activities.

The subspecies is currently known from just two 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.



Pale pink to red flowers are clustered on the ends of branchlets. Photo – Andrew Brown



Note the rigid, sharply pointed leaves of the subspecies. Photo – Andrew Brown

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.

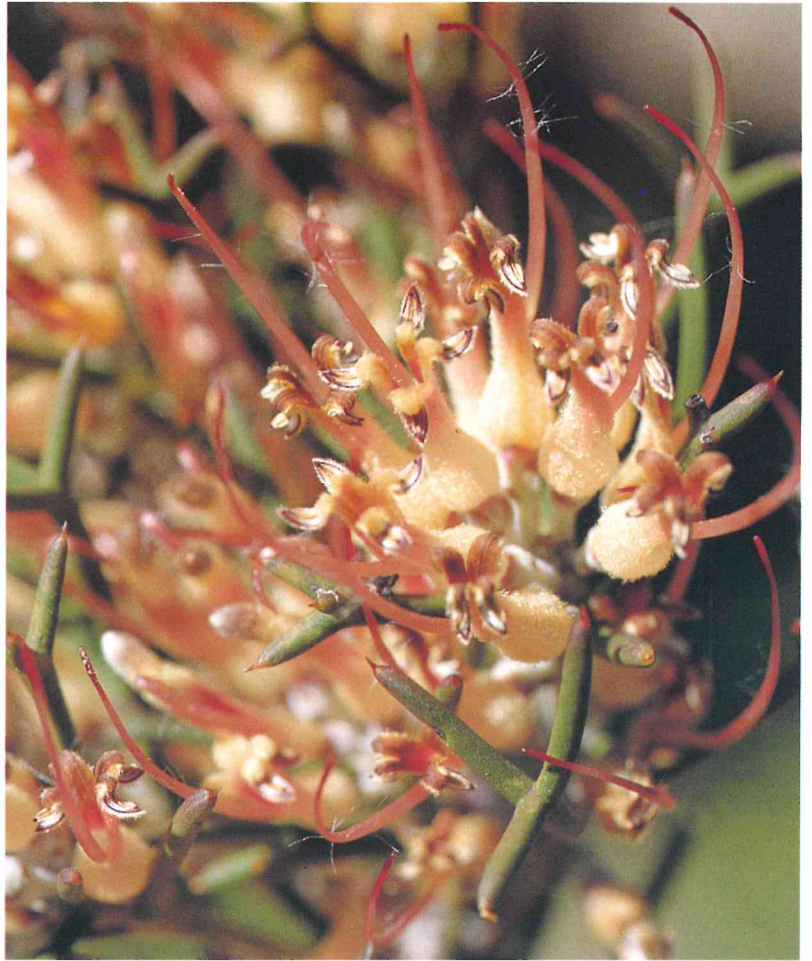
IRPs are prepared by CALM and implemented by Regional or District Recovery Teams consisting of representatives from CALM, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.

Sprawling spikey adenanthos

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

Protection from current threats: the maintenance of dieback hygiene and the control of dieback by applying phosphite; control of weeds; conducting further surveys; and regular monitoring of the health of the populations.

Protection from future threats: the maintenance of buffers of natural vegetation around populations; 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 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.



A close up of the pale pink to red flowers of the subspecies. Photo – Andrew Brown

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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Sprawling spikey adenanthos is a low growing shrub to 25 centimetres high and up to 3 metres across. Photo – Andrew Brown



Department of Conservation and Land Management