

Advances in plant conservation biology:

Implications for flora management and restoration



Symposium program and abstracts

Perth, Western Australia
25-27 October 2005

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THREATENED FLORA SEED CENTRE

Cochrane J.A.

Threatened Flora Seed Centre, Department of Conservation and Land Management, Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, Western Australia, Australia 6983.

The flora of the South West Botanical Province of Western Australia has the highest concentration of rare and threatened endemics in Australia and is recognised as one of the world's top 25 biodiversity hotspots. Threatening processes that adversely impacts on the survival of many of these plant species include land clearing leading to habitat fragmentation, disease, salinity and weed invasion. The Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management's Threatened Flora Seed Centre provides the capacity for the long-term storage of seed of rare, threatened and poorly known species thereby helping to conserve this unique flora for future generations. This genebank is an integral part of the State flora conservation strategy that involves on ground management and off site conservation. Stored seed is a source of material for recovery of wild populations and for *ex-situ* scientific research into seed biology, conservation genetics and disease susceptibility.