

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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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

SUCCESSFUL STORAGE OF SEED FROM THREATENED WEST AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

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The rich and diverse flora of Western Australia comprises a large number of taxa (almost 2500) that are listed as being rare, threatened or poorly known. *Ex situ* conservation of these taxa as seed is an important component of the conservation efforts being carried out to protect these 'at risk' taxa. The Threatened Flora Seed Centre (TFSC) run by Western Australia's Department of Conservation and Land Management is the facility primarily responsible for the collection and storage of this material using conventional seedbanking conditions as recommended by the FAO/IPGRI genebank standards. It has been suggested that the use of these conditions may not be appropriate for Australian species. Examination of storage data from the TFSC from over 350 accessions (176 taxa, 46 genera and 16 families) has shown that although a decline has been found in some collections the vast majority have shown no significant decline in viability after storage for periods between one and eleven years. Furthermore, the few cases exhibiting a decline in viability appear to be accession-specific rather than a species response.