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STUDIES OF THE FLORA OF THE STIRLING RANGE

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The Stirling Range National Park (ca 115,000 ha) is one of the few regions in Southern Western Australia where there is relatively considerable variation in climate and topographic relief. Historically it has probably enjoyed a milder climate in the past than many areas further inland. Hence the Stirling Range has a very rich flora (currently 752 species recorded) of which a high proportion are endemics. New species have been recognised and new occurrences recorded recently. Further additions are expected.

Current studies of the distribution and biology of several endemics in the Stirling Range are reported.

Detailed biosystematic studies have been carried out in the genus Darwinia (8 endemic species) and are planned for Oxylobium (possibly 4 endemic species). Such studies elucidate the origins, relationships and current status of the endemics of the region.