

The **survey handbook** is draft, modifications are undoubtedly needed. This serves as a methods for the collection of the data on this disk.

Northern Agricultural Catchment Council 2003 Vegetation Remnants survey data.

This data version is of date 17 January 2005.

Compiled by Margaret Langley
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Use queries to get data. Data consists of site location data, structural data, species data relevant to structure and other species identified at site.

When tables are open field/ column descriptions should appear at base of screen when cursor is in a field. Move to next field to get next description. Descriptions can also be seen if TABLES (not queries) are opened in design view.

The queries give a guide to how the data can be linked. Important link fields are sitecode, collection number (Collnumber). For more sophisticated forms the full species identifications can be linked to structural data using site code, collection number(collnumber), Stratu and Stratumspecimen. This latter will require some more complex linking of tables.

The data still requires the allocation of vouchering numbers and the eventual addition of a field of information called perthsheet. This will give a long term reference for the species in this data should changes in taxonomy occur—for example to acacias.

Important to remember in field situation and in identification of specimens of plants

- the site numbers be allocated and be unique and should be on ALL collections of information and specimens and notes.
- the collection numbers be unique and allocated immediately and to all information and collections.
- Cross reference information of date, collector and property on sheets and notes and plant tags help sort out problems if they occur.
- Problems encountered
 - Wrong collection numbers were put on tags –different to what was on field sheet occasionally
 - Duplicated collection numbers were used
 - The wrong collector id was put onto tags making the collection number wrong
 - No site number was allocated in field and 5 pieces of information were required to identify a site. If some of these were missing from specimen of field sheet it became very difficult to connect information.

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Dear Deon

RE: Status of NACC vegetation remnant mapping database

The database structure has not been finalised due to the changing details and fields in the data. Corrections to data before refinements on coding and referencing the component data has meant that a final outline hasnt yet been achieved.

Reasons for delay

There are 3 components to the data

1. the site details (location edaphic observations and vegetation structural references) from field data sheets.
2. the reference specimen data which was constructed from the specimens and their identification and relied on the collection number with the specimen and other site detail is on specimen but was initially not included in database as it was not thought to be necessary)
3. the allocation of reference vouchers to each plant species record (2526 records) so there would be a reference specimen stored at the WA Herbarium. This uses the collection number at present and eventually will have a PerthSheet number indicating the reference for that specimen within the State Herbarium collection.

The database is multi dimensional as each site has multiple strata and multiple species within a strata. The transect species list was extracted from the transect data to enable easier checking and referencing to specimens etc. The process of refining the database structure exposed numerous problems and errors which have taken a number of months to correct. There were errors on specimen tags, specimen cover sheets, field sheets, data entry of transects, data entry of specimens information.

Most of these errors when isolated were no more than a mis written or misread letter or numeral, others were the accidental use of duplicate collection numbers. Most specimen/location information was recorded twice (specimentag and field sheet) or 3 times(notebook) and so negligible information is lost by mistakes. The problem has been with 1162 specimens and 2526 specimen references it is time consuming to locate and then unravel where the mistake has originated and so correct it.

Some of the function of the data was reduced because we didnt differentiate between a collection number being collected at a site and when it was refereed to at a subsequent site. This is being remedied for the voucher references as original collection locations are needed for these specimens by the Herbarium.

The nature of the work meant that we were unable to allocate consecutive site numbers in the field and up to 6 fields are required to correlate a record with a specimen location if the collection number is incorrect or duplicate. This has also contributed to a time consuming task in tracking errors.

Incomplete

- The specimens that are the reference vouchers have been chosen. The notation of these in the specimen database is incomplete (61 species still to do, 286 species done, some of the incomplete have still to be checked for site code).
- Check geocoding of sites is correct (most of this has been done but should be checked for inconsistencies in some records eg where there are duplicates).
- Tidy up owner and property details, some are incorrect (eg ATSIIC) but were retained due to relevance to data as collected).
- Perthsheet numbers need to be generated by the herbarium and entered into the database.
- Species need final check on priority status. Rare flora reports to be made as required.
- Site and voucher data converted to label for reference vouchers for Wa Herbarium
- Need to have the structural data converted to a vegetation description for the database, attributing the GIS mapping and for
 - comparison to current mapping (Beard).
 - Assess the relationship of survey descriptions with current mapping descriptions.
- Rearrange the database to be functional for future addition of data and ease of information extraction.

Notes

Of 77 observations looked at so far only 9 are very consistent with current beards mapping. 8 have no structural or species component in common and 60 have some elements in common but usually only 1 to 3 dominant species and/or some structural component eg woodland.

Database Statistics

2526 specimen references

1162 specimen identifications

100 field identifications

reference vouchers 286 species (using 386 specimens) done, total of 347 species need vouchering.

I will be on leave until the end of October 2004 but will be happy to continue with the database after that time. Ted Griffin investigated some preliminary platform ideas and I include the database EAGForm.mdb as an example. Beware that that database has uncorrected data in it and has different fields in total.

Sincerely

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