

Saving our ‘Attractions’ —vascular plant taxonomy informing conservation efforts in Western Australia

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Juliet Wege

Western Australian Herbarium, Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Perth, WA

Western Australia’s diverse flora and extensive spatial scale make documenting, assessing and managing threatened and poorly known species an extremely challenging task. This task continues to grow—in the past 10 years, almost 1000 taxa have been added to the *Threatened and Priority Flora list for Western Australia* and the number of ‘Data Deficient’ taxa (those listed as Priority 1–3 under Western Australian Conservation Codes) has disproportionately increased. These changes have been driven by taxonomic research, including targeted studies on species of high conservation significance. While this research effort has reduced the overall number of undescribed (informally-named) taxa in Western Australia, the number of undescribed conservation-listed taxa has slightly increased, reflecting a high rate of species discovery. Collaborations between taxonomists and conservation personnel or industry representatives, and citizen scientist initiatives (not to mention the initiative of citizen scientists) are helping to resolve the taxonomy or conservation status of select taxa. An overarching *eFlora of Western Australia* is needed to facilitate conservation of the State’s unique plant biodiversity, which continues to be threatened by multiple processes.

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