Western Australian Flora Statistics

Current Statistics - Vascular Flora - June 2013

Table 1. Analysis of the size of vascular plant divisions for various categories of name

Category	Pteridophytes	Gymnosperms	Monocots	Dicots	Total
Total names [A]	142	39	3789	16591	20561
Non-current names [B]	34	14	1131	4730	5909
Current names [C]	108	25	2658	11861	14652
Species with infraspecies [K]	8	0	147	958	1113
Current taxa [D]	100	25	2511	10903	13539
Current alien taxa	8	8	362	854	1232
Current native taxa	92	17	2149	10049	12307
Current species [E]	98	25	2352	9933	12408
Current alien species	8	8	354	842	1212
Current native species	90	17	1998	9091	11196
Manuscript names [F]	0	0	24	73	97
Phrase names [G]	0	0	264	1143	1407
Published species [H]	98	25	2089	8842	11054
Published alien species [I]	8	8	354	840	1210
Published native species [J]	90	17	1735	8002	9844
Named hybrids [L]	0	0	27	33	60
Un-named	0	0	2	18	20

hybrids					

Data sourced on 1st June 2013. Compare with the 2012 figures.
The terms *taxa* here refers to entities at species level and below; and *species* refers only to those entities at species rank.

A - total number of vascular plant names in the database
B - number of synonymous, excluded or misapplied names (ie. plant names no longer in current use, at least in WA)
C - number of currently accepted plant names (ie. includes the species-level name when infra-species exist)
D - number of currently accepted taxa (ie. excludes the species-level name when infra-species of that taxon exist)
E - number of currently accepted species (ie. only the species-level names, excludes any infra-species names)
F - number of proposed but unpublished taxa (ie. informal names proposed on specimens or in manuscripts)
G - number of assigned but unpublished taxa (ie. informal names assigned to specimens for further analysis)
H - number of formally published species names (ie. formally published names described in botanical literature)
I - number of published naturalised alien species (ie. formally published names of weed species occurring in WA)
J - number of published species native to Western Australia (ie. formally published names of native WA species)
K - number of species with subordinate current taxa (subspecies, varieties and formas).
L - number of current names recorded in the Census denoting taxa which are named hybrids or un-named hybrid formulae.

2013 Highlights

For the vascular plants, a brief comparison of the 2013 data with 2012 data shows:

- the addition of 283 vascular plant names to the Census of Western Australian Plants database;
- there are 58 additional taxa recognised as occurring in the State: 50 native taxa and 8 naturalised taxa;
- the number of published species rose by 105 to 11,054, including 97 native species and 8 naturalised species;
- a significant decrease in the number (-94) of manuscript names in current use, down to 97, continuing the trend of the last 5 years, due either to their formal publication or their conversion to phrase names as part of the Australian Plant Census project;
- a considerable increase (+41) in the number of phrase names in current use, up to 1,407;
- therefore, for the third year in succession, there has been a decrease (-53) in the number of putative taxa yet to be researched and published, from 1,557 in 2012 to 1,504.

Other Collections Statistics

Data sourced on Friday, 7 June 2013. Other core statistics often required for citation in various works include the number of:

- specimens now held in the WA Herbarium Specimen Database (WAHERB) = 742,276
- plant names now held in the WA Herbarium Census of WA Plants Database (WACENSUS) = 23,097
- accessions now held in the WA Herbarium Library Database (WALIB) = 23,741
- images now held in the WA Herbarium Image Collection = 37,885
- composite images illustrating taxa in FloraBase = 6,970

Compiler's Note

While the current contents are manual concatenations of census data, or static tables drawn from recent published works, it is intended that future versions of this page will contain live flora statistics drawn directly from the constantly maintained datasets held at the Western Australian Herbarium. At that time we would also seek to disseminate the standard logic behind the accurate calculation of these statistics. In this way, not only will the latest figures be available at all times, but the correct methodology for calculating and applying those figures will become better understood.

Compiled by Alex Chapman; last updated on 4 June 2013.

Related content

- 2013 Highlights
- Preliminary Statistics - Cryptogams
- A summary of Floristics and Endemism in WA
- New systematic family sequence

Did you notice?

There is, in general, a diminishing relationship between figures in subsequent rows of the table, as figures in each category are subtracted from the ones above.

Eg. in each column: A - B = C.

Having trouble deciding...

... the most appropriate data for your purpose? The highlighted rows are the recommended figures if you need:

- to cite the actual number of known vascular plant entities in WA [D], or
- a conservative estimate of the number of well-documented vascular plant species [H].

'Green's Census'

For those familiar with Green, J.W. (1985) *Census of the vascular plants of Western Australia* 2nd ed., WA Herbarium, Perth and subsequent supplements, the following four PDF tables are presented in the style of Green's statistical summaries. They provide further details corresponding to row H in the above table. Data also sourced on 1st June 2012.

- Table 1. Conspectus Of Families And Genera With Statistics
- Table 2. Families Ranked By Number Of Species
- Table 3. Genera Ranked By Number Of Species

Table 4. Size Of Vascular Plant Divisions

Department of
Environment and Conservation
Western Australian Herbarium