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003488

Chiddarcooping myriophyllum

E n d a n g e r e d F l o r a o f W e s t e r n A u s t r a l i a

**If you think you've seen this plant, please call
CALM Merredin District on (08) 9041 2488**

Chiddarcooping myriophyllum (*Myriophyllum lapidicola*) is a short-lived aquatic herb that occurs in a few relatively deep rock pools on granite outcrops.

The species, which has very small flowers in the axils of the upper leaves, flowers in September. It has small leaves that are alternately arranged on the upper parts of long weak stems and float on the surface of the water.

Chiddarcooping myriophyllum was first collected from a single rock pool in 1989 by Ray Cranfield and Phil Spencer of CALM's Western Australian Herbarium. After a particularly wet winter in 1996, Steve Hopper of Kings Park and Botanic Garden saw more than 2000 plants covering 80 per cent of a rock pool's surface in a dense mat.

The species was declared as Rare Flora in 1993 and ranked as Critically Endangered in 1995.

CALM has set up the Merredin District Threatened Flora Recovery Team to co-ordinate recovery actions addressing the most threatening processes affecting the species' survival in the wild (See overleaf).

Threats to this species' survival in the wild include the possible destruction of rock pools, due to contamination by goats and rabbits, or grazing by goats.

The species is currently known from just four populations on granite outcrops between Merredin and the Hunt Range, and CALM is keen to know of any others.

If unable to contact the District office on the above number, please phone CALM's Wildlife Branch on (08) 9334 0422.



The stems and broad leaves of this species float on the surface of the water. Photo – Stephen Hopper



Chiddarcooping myriophyllum is confined to a few rock pools on granite outcrops. Photo – Ray Cranfield

Recovery of a Species



CALM is committed to ensuring that Critically Endangered taxa do not become extinct in the wild. This is done through the preparation of a Recovery Plan (RP) or Interim Recovery Plan (IRP), which outlines the recovery actions that are required to urgently address those threatening processes most affecting the ongoing survival of threatened taxa in the wild and begin the recovery process.

IRPs are prepared by CALM and implemented by Regional or District Recovery teams consisting of representatives from CALM, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, community groups, private landowners, local Shires and various government organisations.

Chiddarcooping myriophyllum

Essential recovery actions that have been implemented to protect the species include:

Protection from current threats: Protection of one population from grazing by goats.

Protection from future threats: Ensuring that relevant authorities, land owners and CALM personnel are aware of the species' presence and the need to protect it, and that all are familiar with the threatening processes identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.

Desirable recovery actions, which are progressively being implemented, include:

The collection of seed, maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); possible creation of an A Class Nature Reserve; conducting further surveys; researching the biology and ecology of Chiddarcooping myriophyllum; and enhancing plant numbers by removal of weeds, amelioration of some other limiting factor, or by direct propagation and translocation techniques.



A close-up of the unusual flower of Chiddarcooping myriophyllum. Photo – David Blumer

IRPs will be deemed a success if essential recovery actions have been implemented, and identified threatening processes have been removed within three years of their approval.



Granite outcrop habitat of Chiddarcooping myriophyllum. Photo – Ray Cranfield

