

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

Cunderdin daviesia

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 have seen this plant, please call
CALM Merredin District on (08) 9041-2488**

Cunderdin daviesia (*Daviesia cunderdin*) is a small to medium shrub, which grows to 1.6 m high. It has large, bright scarlet 'pea-shaped' flowers up to 1.8 cm across which appear between May and June.

The flat, oval-shaped leaves, which are scattered along the stem, have a needle-like tip and grow up to 4 mm long.

The species is known from one population in the Cunderdin area and despite extensive surveys, conducted by CALM's Merredin District staff in the Cunderdin and Tammin areas, it has not been found in any other location. The current population grows on a slight rise in lateritic clayey sand on a road verge overrun by weeds.

Joanna Seabrook discovered *Cunderdin daviesia* in 1996. At this time there were 9-10 plants in the population but this has now dwindled to just four mature plants.

The species was declared as Rare Flora in 1997 and ranked as Critically Endangered in November 1998.

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 include severe weed invasion; road maintenance; chemical drift from herbicides and superphosphate; trampling and lack of supporting vegetation.

The species is currently known from a single population 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.



Cunderdin daviesia produces large bright scarlet pea flowers in winter. Photo – Brenden Lepschi



A mature plant of *Cunderdin daviesia*. Photo – Brenen Lepschi

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.

Cunderdin daviesia

Essential Recovery actions that have been, and will be, implemented to protect the species include:

Protection from current threats: The erection of signs that mark the site of each population; control of introduced weeds; research into fire and germination requirements; and regular monitoring of the health of each population.

Protection from future threats: The development of both a translocation plan and a fire protection plan. Other actions include ensuring that relevant authorities, landowners 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 maintenance of a buffer of natural vegetation around the known population of the species; collection and storage of seed at CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); conducting further surveys; researching the biology and ecology of the species; and enhancing plant numbers by removal of weeds, amelioration of some other limiting factor, or by direct propagation and translocation techniques.

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.



A photo taken in mid June 1998 showing a plant in full flower. Photo – Frank Obbens



Cunderdin daviesia is known from a single weedy road reserve. Photo – Frank Obbens



Weed control is being implemented to protect the habitat of Cunderdin daviesia. Photo – Frank Obbens

