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Curved-leaf grevillea

003988

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 Wanneroo District on (08) 9405 1222.**

Commonly known as the curved-leaf grevillea, *Grevillea curviloba* subsp. *curviloba* is either a ground-hugging shrub, with broad dark green leaves, or a tall erect shrub, up to 2 metres high, with greyish-green leaves. The leaves are 1.5 to 5 centimetres long and mostly have oval to wedge-shaped lobes cut about halfway to the midrib. The inflorescence, 1 to 3 centimetres long by 3 centimetres wide, is on a short stalk, usually in the leaf axils, with individual creamy white flowers. These flowers are 7 to 10 millimetres long by 0.5 millimetres across and appear from September to October.

Curved-leaf grevillea differs from narrow curved-leaf grevillea (*Grevillea curviloba* subsp. *incurva*) in having broad slightly cupped, rather than narrow, inwardly curved leaf lobes. The name *curviloba* refers to these curved leaf lobes.

Curved-leaf grevillea was first collected in 1830 by James Drummond. It grows with other shrubs in open heath in winter-wet, peaty-sand over limestone, near Bullsbrook.

The Muchea Limestone habitat, in which curved-leaf grevillea occurs, is extremely rare and is in an area that has been largely cleared for agriculture. Curved-leaf grevillea was ranked as Critically Endangered in March 1999 due to its restricted distribution and decline in habitat quality.

CALM has set up the Swan Region Threatened Flora Recovery Team to coordinate recovery actions that address threats to the survival of the subspecies in the wild (see overleaf).

The subspecies is currently known from just four populations, three of which are threatened by severe weed invasion. CALM is keen to know of any other populations.

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



White flowers of curved-leaf grevillea. Photo – Andrew Brown

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, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.

Curved-leaf grevillea

Recovery actions that have been, and will be, progressively implemented to protect the subspecies include:

Protection from current threats: control of weeds; conducting further surveys; and regular monitoring of the health of each population.

Protection from future threats: the development of both a translocation proposal and a fire management strategy; collection and storage of seed at CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (in botanical gardens); and researching the biology and ecology of the subspecies. Other actions include ensuring that relevant authorities, landowners and CALM personnel are aware of the subspecies' presence and the need to protect it, and that all are familiar with the threats identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.

IRPs will be deemed a success if the number of individuals within the population and/or the number of populations have increased.



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A fully grown shrub of curved-leaf grevillea. Photo – Val English



The habitat of curved-leaf grevillea. Photo – Val English



Department of Conservation and Land Management