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Metallic-flowered eremophila

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 Katanning District on (08) 9821 1296 or CALM Narrogin District on (08) 9881 1113

Commonly known as metallic-flowered eremophila, *Eremophila veneta* is an open shrub up to 60 cm in height and 1 m in diameter, with small, lance-shaped leaves, densely clustered along its branches.

Attractive, solitary, honeysuckle-like flowers are produced between October and December. They are a curious metallic blue-green in colour with yellow at the base and inside the tube.

The species is found in white sandy-clay flats in low eucalyptus woodland. It is known from several small populations over a distance of 175 km, from north of Kondinin to west of Ongerup.

Metallic-flowered eremophila was declared as Rare Flora in 1991 and ranked as Critically Endangered in 1995.

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

There are only a few small populations of the metallic-flowered eremophila known and CALM is keen to know of any others.

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



A close up of the unusual pale blue-green flowers of metallic-flowered eremophila. Photo – Joff Start

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.

Metallic-flowered eremophila

Essential recovery actions that have been 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; development of a fire protection plan and regular monitoring of the health of each population.

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:

Conducting further surveys; 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); researching the biology and ecology of metallic-flowered eremophila; rehabilitation of degraded areas of natural vegetation around populations of the species; and enhancing plant numbers by removal of weeds, amelioration of some other limiting factor, or by direct propagation and translocation techniques.



A plant surrounded by weeds. Photo – Emma Holland



A mature plant in full flower in early November. Photo – Leonie Monks

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.



Degraded roadside habitat of metallic-flowered eremophila adjacent to cleared farmland. Photo – Emma Holland

