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Mogumber bell

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 Moora District on (08) 9651 1424 or CALM Narrogin District on (08) 9881 1113

Darwinia carnea is commonly known as both the Mogumber bell and the Narrogin bell. This is because the species is found in widely separated populations at Mogumber and Narrogin, some 245 km apart. Further research may show these to be different subspecies, as plants in the Mogumber populations differ from those in the Narrogin population in that they are shorter and have smaller 'bells' of a different colour.

Mogumber bell is a small shrub, between 20 and 30 cm tall that is found growing in heath vegetation on a lateritic hilltop at Narrogin, and in brown, gravelly, loamy soils on the tops of lateritic ridges at Mogumber. The species was first discovered in 1922 by eminent botanist Charles Gardner. Robert Durell found the Narrogin population in the 1950s.

Flowering occurs between October and December when plants are covered in attractive nodding, yellow-green to pink-red bell-like bracts up to 3 cm long. The scientific name *carnea* is derived from the Latin *carneus*, meaning flesh-coloured, and refers to the colour of these bracts. These enclose between 10 and 14 small, pale-coloured flowers.

Mogumber bell was declared as Rare Flora in 1980 and ranked as Critically Endangered in 1995.

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

Mogumber bell is currently known from just three small populations 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.



A close up of the bell-like bracts that surround the small pale-coloured flowers. Photo – Andrew Brown



A young plant of Mogumber bell in full flower. Photo – Emma Holland

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.

Mogumber bell

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

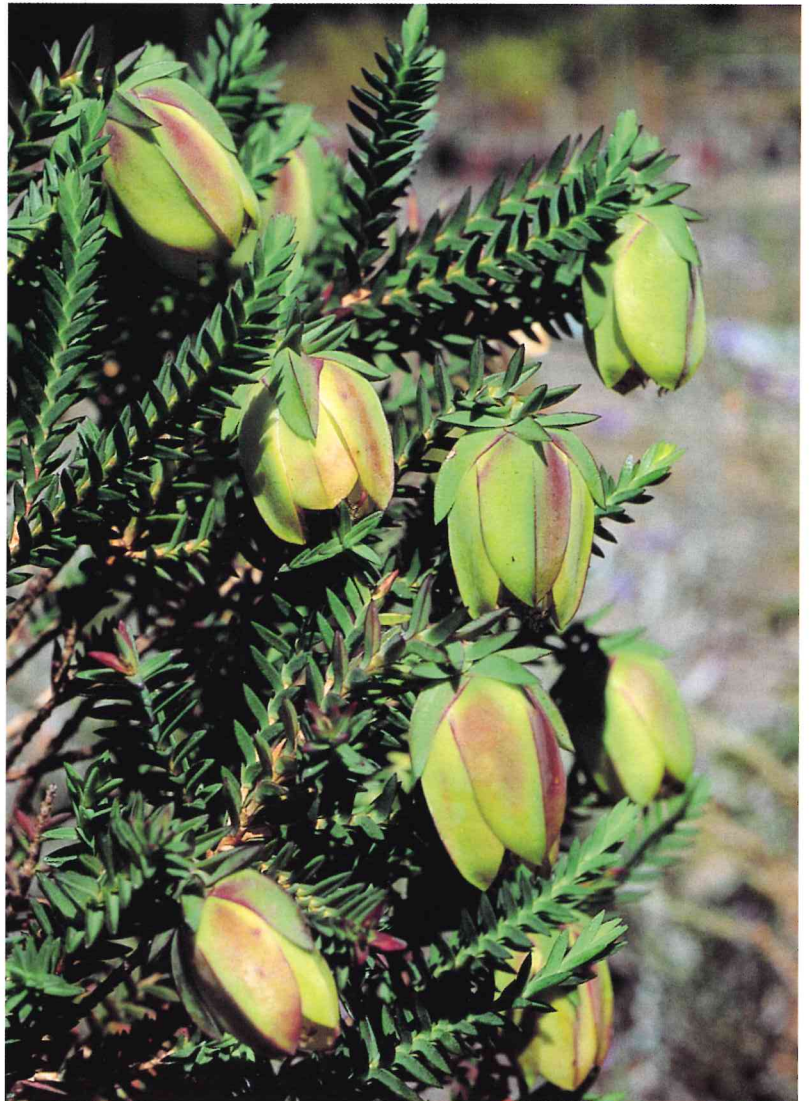
Protection from current threats: Fencing of populations to keep out grazing animals; development of a fire protection plan; continuation of a rabbit control program, and regular monitoring of the health of each population.

Protection from future threats: The collection and storage of seed in CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre, maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); 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; control of introduced weeds; researching the biology and ecology of Mogumber bell; purchasing private land containing populations and setting it aside as a nature reserve; 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 healthy cultivated specimen of Mogumber bell. Photo – Andrew Brown



Habitat of Mogumber bell on private property near Mogumber. Photo – Emma Holland

