Net-veined gyrostemon

Endangered Flora of Western Australia

If you think you have seen this plant, please call the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Geraldton District on (08) 9921-5955.

C.A. Gardner made the first collection of *Gyrostemon reticulatus* (Net-veined gyrostemon) from near Canna in 1933 and five years later W. Blackall collected it near Wubin and Kalannie. It was then not seen again for 52 years until found by Brother van Veen in 1990. During surveys of this population in August 2001 over 500 plants were seen.

Net-veined Gyrostemon is an erect dioecious (male and female flowers occur on separate plants) shrub to one metre tall with crowded linear leaves 11-35mm long. These are circular in cross-section and sometimes have hooked tips. Male flowers have 12 to 14 stamens that end in sharp points, and are arranged in a whorl. The female flowers have 5-7 carpels with narrow, flattened stigmas about 1mm long. The stalked, solitary fruit is spherical, and the 3mm long.

The species is distinguished from the related *Gyrostemon australasicus* by its reticulate carpels with narrow keels, and by the generally larger number of stamens (usually nine to 12 or 14 in *G. australasicus*).

Net-veined gyrostemon is currently known from a narrow geographic range of just two kilometres in an area south east of Mullewa where it grows on yellow-brown sandy slopes in a dense shrubland of *Melaleuca, Acacia acuminata* and *Allocasuarina campestris*.

Net-veined gyrostemon was declared as Rare Flora in 2000 and ranked Vulnerable (VU) in 2002. However, it currently meets World Conservation Union (IUCN, 2000) Red List Category 'CR' due to severe fragmentation of populations, an extremely small distribution and continuing decline in the quality of habitat. The main threats are its limited range, grazing, inappropriate fire regimes and accidental damage during firebreak maintenance and herbicide spraying.

The Department has set up the Geraldton District Threatened Flora Recovery Team to coordinate recovery actions that address the greatest threats to the survival of the species in the wild (see overleaf).

The species is known from just two populations, the second one consisting of just two plants, and the Department is keen to know of any others.

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

A female plant of Net-veined gyrostemon. Photo – A.Brown

Recovery of a Species

The Department is committed to ensuring that Critically Endangered flora does not become extinct in the wild. This is done through the preparation of a Recovery Plan 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 the Department and implemented by Regional or District Recovery Teams consisting of representatives from the Department of Conservation and Land Management, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.

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

Protection from current threats: These include control of weeds; fencing; liaising with land holders to ensure plants are not accidentally damaged; conducting further surveys; and regular monitoring of the health of populations.

Protection from future threats: These include the collection and storage of seed in the Department's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); and researching the biology and ecology of the species. Other actions include stimulating the germination of soil stored seed; development of a fire management strategy; ensuring that relevant authorities, landowners and Departmental personnel are aware of the species' 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.

This poster was prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

A mature plant of Net-veined gyrostemon. Photo – V.English

Numerous tiny flowers are produced in spring. Photo – A.Brown

Net-veined gyrostemon is a disturbance opportunist which germinates following fire. Photo – V.English

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DEPARTMENT OF Conservation AND LAND MANAGEMENT
Conserving the nature of WA