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Pine featherflower

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 the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Katanning District on (08) 9821-1296.

S. Elliott made the first known collection of *Verticordia staminosa* in 1955. In 1999 A. S. George divided the species into two subspecies (*Verticordia staminosa* subsp. *staminosa* and *V. staminosa* subsp. *cylindracea*) and subsequently further divided subsp. *cylindracea* into two varieties (var. *cylindracea* and var. *erecta*). The latter commonly known as pine featherflower. All taxa are confined to granite outcrops in the wheatbelt of Western Australia and are declared as rare flora.

Pine featherflower is a small erect, much branched shrub with hairy branchlets and very narrow, more or less stalkless leaves up to 1.5cm long and solitary yellow flowers with protruding stamens 6-7mm long that are bright red with yellow tips. Below these are yellow, very feathery sepals 5-6mm long and two bright red persistent bracts. The stamens are united for 3mm, with staminodes (infertile stamens) inserted between the stamens, the free part of the stamen is 1mm long, with a blunt or rounded end.

Pine featherflower differs from granite featherflower in its erect habit, growing up to one metre high.

Pine featherflower is known from two localities near Newdegate where it grows on exposed granite slopes in association with resurrection plants (*Borya* spp.).

Pine featherflower's response to fire is not known. Growth is suppressed by grazing, with some mature plants being killed when grazed by sheep.

Pine featherflower was declared as Rare Flora in October 1996 and ranked Critically Endangered (CR) in September 2000 as there are just two populations with continuing threats including habitat degradation, small population size, rabbit activity, weeds and vehicle access. There are also possible long-term threats associated with lack of genetic diversity.

The Department has set up the Katanning 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 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 close up of the unusual flowers of Pine featherflower. Photo – A. Brown

Recovery of a Species



The Department is committed to ensuring that Critically Endangered flora do 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.

Pine featherflower

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

Protection from current threats: These include control of weeds; protection from grazing; 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 research into the biology and ecology of the species. Other actions include 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.



This photo illustrates the distinctive erect habit of Pine featherflower. Photo – A.Brown

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.



The granite outcrop habitat of Pine featherflower. Photo – A.Brown