

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

003988

Red Snakebush

CALM LIBRARY ARCHIVE
NOT FOR LOAN

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**

Commonly known as red snakebush, *Hemiandra gardneri* is a prostrate shrub, forming a mat up to 2 m in diameter. Attractive bell-shaped, dark red to pink flowers are found clustered towards the end of the stems between September and January.

The leaves, which are up to 20 mm long, green or grey-green, with three raised veins on the lower surface, have a distinctive sharp point at the tip. Often, the plant has a grey appearance, due to the covering of hairs on the leaves.

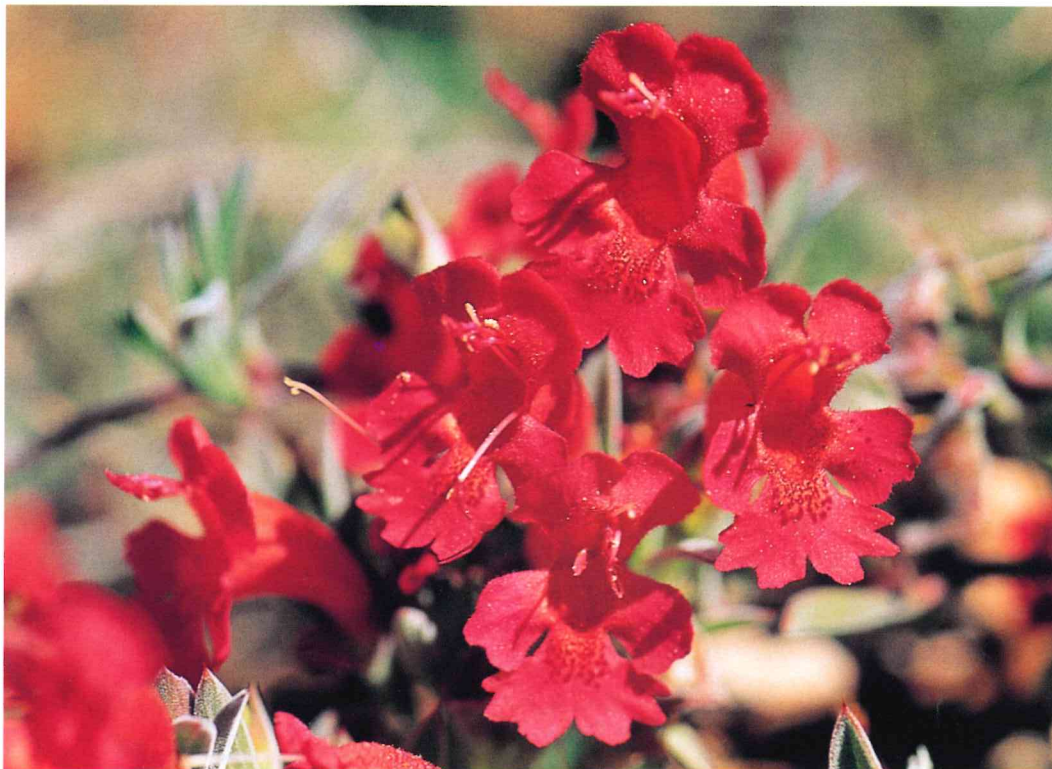
The species grows in deep yellow to yellow-white sand on sand-plains and hills in low *Banksia* woodlands, being most abundant in open areas between shrubs.

Hemiandra gardneri was first collected from near Watheroo by Charles Gardner in 1926, and then from Wubin (1959) and near Jurien Bay (1978). In 1983, it was known from six sites. By 1995, however, population numbers had plummeted and it was ranked as Critically Endangered.

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

As red snakebush is currently known from only a few populations, we are eager 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 bright red flowered form of the snakebush. Photo – A. Brown



Note the low-growing habit of the species. Photo – E. 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.

PAM01328

Red Snakebush

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

Protection from current threats: The control of introduced weeds; the development of a fire protection plan to protect the species from inappropriate fire regimes; 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 red snakebush 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:

The collection of seed; the maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); conducting further surveys; enhancing plant numbers by removal of weeds, amelioration of some other limiting factor, or by direct propagation and translocation techniques; and researching the biology and ecology of the red snakebush.

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.



Red snakebush is usually found in disturbed areas such as along old firebreaks.
Photo – S. Hopper



A young plant showing the grey-green appearance of new leaves due to the dense covering of hairs. Photo – E. Holland

