

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 It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.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

Silky Eremophila

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

Charles Gardner first collected silky eremophila (*Eremophila nivea*) from near Three Springs in 1960.

Flowering from August to October, It is an attractive, compact shrub, growing to 2 m tall, with small, linear leaves that are covered in distinctive silvery hairs and lilac-coloured flowers (sometimes with brown spots).

Silky eremophila is found growing under York Gum in open scrub communities, on soils of brown sand overlaying clay-loam.

The species is thought to have been widespread throughout the Three Springs area before extensive clearing removed much of its habitat.

A PhD student from Curtin University, in conjunction with the Western Australian Herbarium, is currently undertaking research on the species. This will help in its recovery by providing information on its biology.

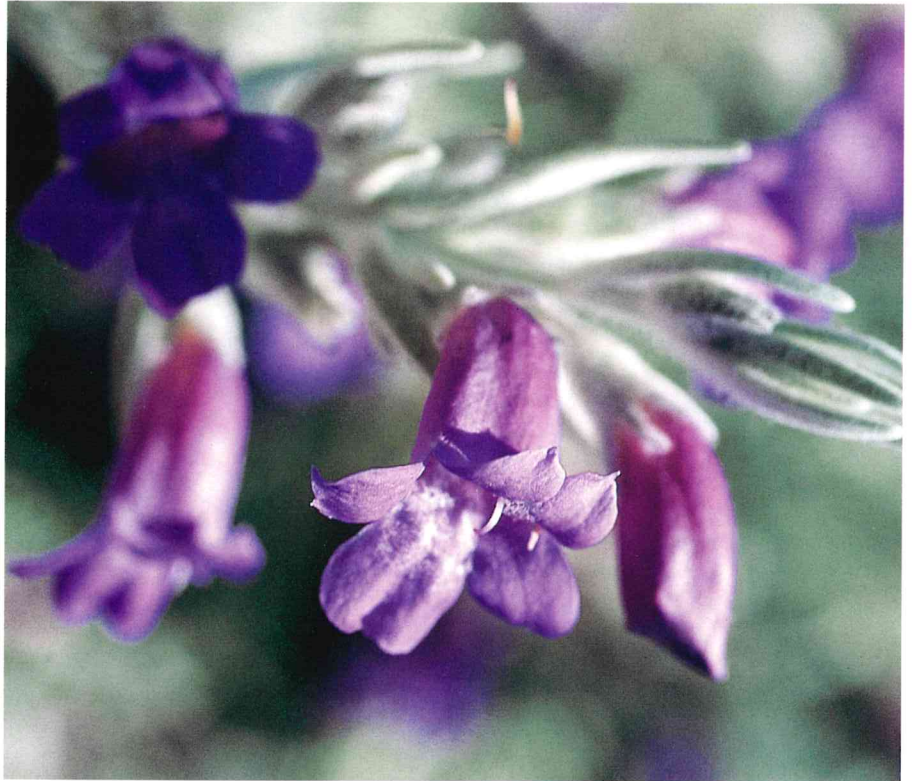
Although silky eremophila is a popular ornamental garden plant, it is extremely rare in the wild and, as such, was ranked as Critically Endangered in 1995.

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

Threats include degraded habitat, weeds, accidental damage during road maintenance, herbicide overspray, poor survival of offspring and the death of some adult plants.

There are only six known populations of the silky eremophila (many of them quite small), and we are 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 beautiful lilac flowers of silky eremophila. Photo – A. Brown



Note the distinctive silvery colouration of the plant. Photo – A. Brown

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.

Silky 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; reducing grazing pressure through the control of rabbits; the control of introduced weeds; ensuring that relevant authorities, land owners and CALM personnel are aware of the species and the need to protect it; and regular monitoring of the health of each population.

Protection from future threats: The development of a fire protection plan; the maintenance of dieback hygiene; the maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); and the maintenance of buffers of natural vegetation around populations of silky eremophila.

Desirable recovery actions, which are progressively being implemented, include:

Conducting further surveys; researching the biology and ecology of silky eremophila; and enhancing plant numbers by removal of weeds, amelioration of some other limiting factor, or by direct propagation and translocation techniques.



A close-up of flowers. Photo – R. Cranfield

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.



Several populations of silky eremophila are confined to narrow road reserves. Photo – A. Brown

