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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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# Small two-coloured kangaroo paw

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 Esperance District on (08) 9071 3733, Albany District on (08) 9842 4500 or Katanning District on (08) 9821 1296.**

Commonly known as small two-coloured kangaroo paw, *Anigozanthos bicolor* subsp. *minor* is a small plant between 5 and 20 cm high with hairy stems and solitary, large, paw-like flowers. The flowers, which are green with a red base and between 30 and 45 mm long, appear between August and November. The floral tube distinctively narrows above the middle and is just 3 to 5 mm wide at the narrowest point. The flattened leaves are 5 to 10 cm long.

C.A. Gardner made the first known collection of small two-coloured kangaroo paw in 1935. At that time it was considered to be a colour form of *Anigozanthos bicolor*. However, S.D. Hopper described it as a distinct subspecies in 1987, at which time it was declared as Rare Flora.

It was then not sighted for about five years, and was presumed to be extinct until extensive searches by CALM staff in 1999 located between 700 and 800 plants in two localities. These plants have since died. However, as small two-coloured kangaroo paw populations are known to re-establish from soil stored seed following summer fire or soil disturbance, then rapidly decline over a period of one to two years, there is potential for populations to re-establish in previously known localities.

Small two-coloured kangaroo paw is known historically from 12 well-separated localities over a range of 290 km between the Fitzgerald River National Park, Lake King and Condingup. It favours moist sandy soil in heath communities and has also been found in shallow soil near granite outcrops. Flowering occurs following disturbance or summer fire.

Few populations have been found in recent years, and there are currently (2004) no plants known to be existing. Small two-coloured kangaroo paw is ranked as Critically Endangered under World Conservation Union (IUCN 2000) criteria.



The floral tube of small two-coloured kangaroo paw distinctively narrows above the middle. Photo – A. Brown



Several populations have been found below granite outcrops. Photo – A. Brown

## Recovery of a Species



CALM is committed to ensuring that threatened taxa do not become extinct in the wild. This is done through the preparation of an Interim Recovery Plan (IRP) that outlines the recovery actions 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, the Botanic Garden and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.

# Small two-coloured kangaroo paw

The Esperance, Albany and Katanning District Threatened Flora Recovery Teams are coordinating recovery actions that address the greatest threats to the survival of the species in the wild.

The main threats are inappropriate fire regimes, clearing, poor recruitment and weed invasion.

As there are no populations of small two coloured kangaroo paw known to be existing, CALM is keen to know of any new discoveries.

If unable to contact the district offices on the above numbers, please phone CALM's Wildlife Branch on (08) 9334 0422.

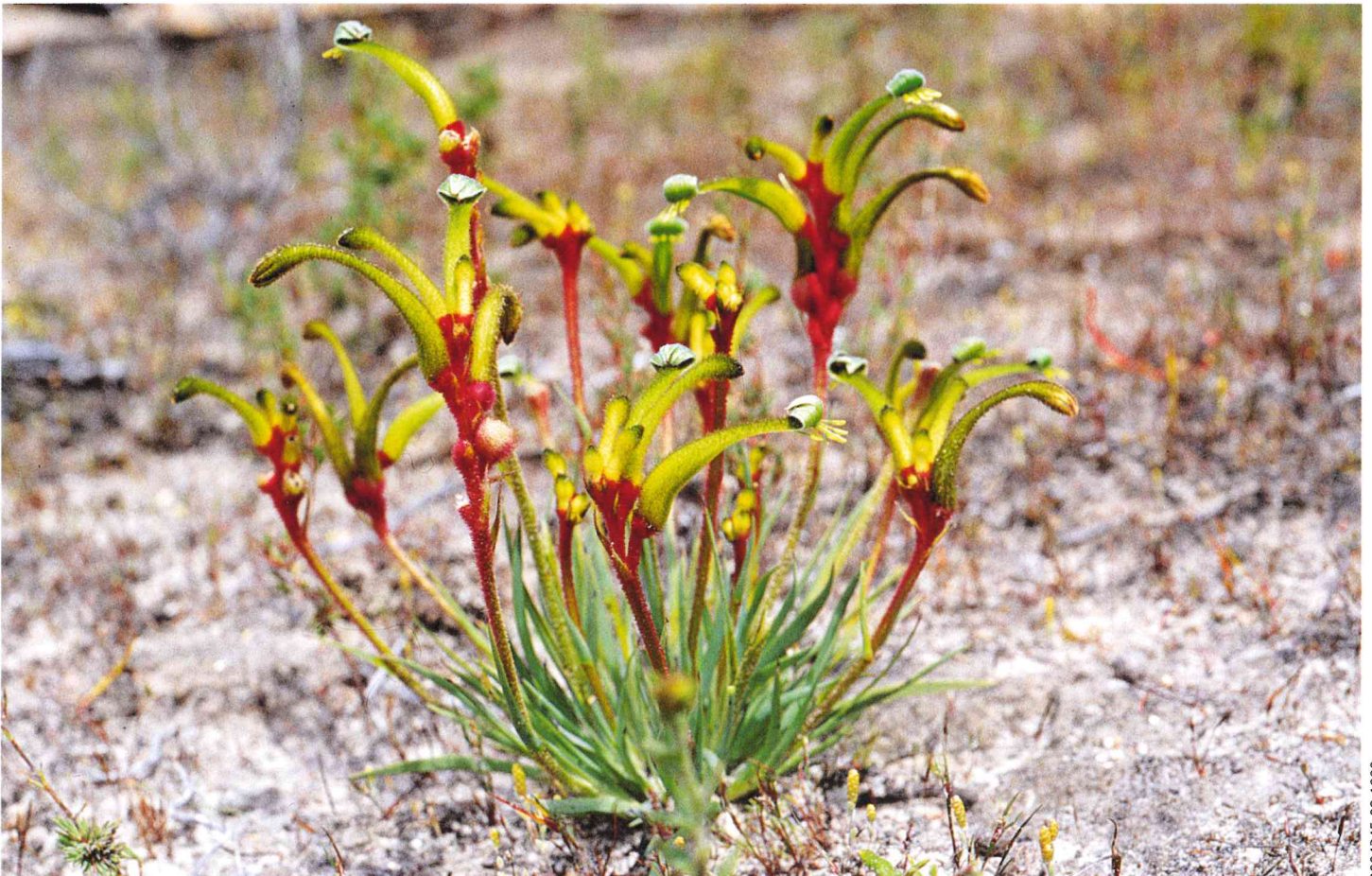
Recovery actions that have been recommended and will be progressively implemented to protect the species include:

- ongoing liaison with land managers,
- regular monitoring of known occurrences,
- further surveys,
- attempts to stimulate germination,
- collection and storage of seed,
- development and implementation of a fire management strategy, and
- investigation of the biology and ecology of the subspecies.



Habitat of small two-coloured kangaroo paw. Photo – A. Brown

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 adoption under the EPBC Act.



Note the typical clump forming habit of small two-coloured kangaroo paw. Photo – A. Brown