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Split-leaved grevillea

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 the Moora District office of the Department of Conservation and Land Management on (08) 9652 1911.

Split-leaved grevillea (*Grevillea althoferorum*) is a lignotuberous shrub with trailing stems up to 3 m long, and angular branchlets covered with very fine, long, soft hairs. Its leaves are 1.5 to 2 cm long, ascending to spreading, shortly petiolate and twice divided, lobes broadly triangular with recurved pungent points. The terminal florescence is 2 to 6 cm long and erect or decurved. The cream flowers (floral whorl and style) are regular (not one-sided), and the buds are covered in pinkish-brown hairs. Flowers are produced from August to October.

Split-leaved grevillea was first collected south of Eneabba in 1978 by E.A. Griffin. This population was destroyed during mining operations and subsequent surveys by Griffin failed to locate additional populations. In 1991, P. Olde discovered a population 5 km east of the Griffin collections. Staff from the Department of Conservation and Land Management (the Department) and consultants carried out subsequent surveys of the area during 1991 to 1994, but no additional populations were located. A second population, 200 km south of the Olde population, was located during a floristic survey of the southern Swan Coastal Plain.

Split-leaved grevillea is only known from two populations 200 km apart, one south of Eneabba and the other near Bullsbrook. The population south of Eneabba is found on the crest of a low rise on pale brown loamy sand or grey sand supporting low heath. This population occurs on a road verge and is threatened by weed invasion, road maintenance and agricultural activities, grazing, general ground disturbance by rabbits and foxes, and inappropriate fire regimes.

The Bullsbrook population occurs at the base of the Darling Scarp in greyish yellow sand in Banksia low woodland. The population is in a conservation reserve adjacent to agricultural land. The reserve is known to contain dieback disease caused by the plant pathogen *Phytophthora* spp. Split-leaved grevillea



Cream flowers and twice divided, pointed leaves distinguish this species. Photo – Leonie Monks

is also at risk at this site from firebreak maintenance, inappropriate fire regimes and possibly herbicide or fertiliser drift associated with agricultural activity on adjacent land.

Split-leaved grevillea was ranked as Critically Endangered in 1998 and the Department, through the direction of the Moora District Threatened Flora Recovery Team, has been addressing the most threatening factors affecting its survival in the wild (see overleaf).

Split-leaved grevillea is currently known from two populations consisting of around 180 plants. The Department is keen to hear of any other populations.

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

Recovery of a Species



The Department 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 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, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.

Split-leaved grevillea

Recovery actions that are being implemented are:

Protection from current threats: these include the control of rabbits; the development of a fire management strategy to protect the species from inappropriate fire regimes; the maintenance of dieback hygiene; and the regular monitoring of the health of the populations.

Protection from future threats: these include the collection of seed; the maintenance of live plants away from the wild (ie. in botanic gardens); conducting further surveys; researching the biology and ecology of split-leaved grevillea; enhancing plant numbers by direct propagation and translocation techniques; and ensuring that relevant authorities, land owners and Departmental personnel are aware of its presence and the need to protect it, and that all are familiar with the threatening processes 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 is sponsored by the Endangered Species Program of the Natural Heritage Trust.



A mature plant of split-leaved grevillea. Photo – Leonie Monks



Split-leaved grevillea occurring in low heath on a road verge near Eneabba. Photo – Robyn Phillimore

