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Department of Biodiversity,  
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90,3986 CALM Wildlife Branch  
103, 508, 1288

# Western Prickly Honeysuckle

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 South West Capes on (08) 9752 1677**

Commonly known as the western prickly honeysuckle, *Lambertia echinata* subsp. *occidentalis* is a many-branched shrub to 3 m tall. It is distinguished by its attractive yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers that are produced from October to December.

Western prickly honeysuckle is found growing in shallow soils over sheet ironstone, in a rich scrub heath containing emergent low marri and banksias.

It differs from *Lambertia echinata* subsp. *echinata* in that it is taller and has yellow (rather than dark red to pink) flowers on long erect flowering branches. It differs from *L. echinata* subsp. *citrina* (which also has yellow flowers) in that it usually has smooth or, more rarely, three pointed edges on the leaves.

Neil Gibson and Bronwen Keighery first discovered western prickly honeysuckle in late 1992 during a survey of the Southern Swan Coastal Plain.

The subspecies was named in 1997 by Greg Keighery, and was ranked as Critically Endangered in the same year.

CALM has set up the Central Forest Region Threatened Flora Recovery Team to co-ordinate recovery actions addressing the most threatening processes affecting the survival of the subspecies in the wild. (See overleaf).

Threats include dieback, poor survival of seedlings, the deaths of some adult plants, and lack of suitable habitat.

Western prickly honeysuckle is known from a single population in the Whicher Range area, and 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.



The yellow flowers of western prickly honeysuckle readily distinguished it from prickly honeysuckle.  
Photo – Leonie Monks



Plants flower profusely between October and December. Photo – F. Bunny

## 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.



# Western Prickly Honeysuckle

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

**Protection from current threats:** Restriction of access into the site in order to prevent the spread of dieback; the erection of signs to mark the population; the collection of seed; the maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); the development of a fire protection plan; and regular monitoring of the health of the population.

**Protection from future threats:** Ensuring that relevant authorities, land owners and CALM personnel are aware of the subspecies 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:

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

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.



This species is a many-branched shrub to 3 m tall. Photo – D. Papenfus



Western prickly honeysuckle is known from a single locality, where it grows in shallow soils over sheet ironstone, in a rich shrub heath. Photo – Leonie Monks

