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Wing-fruited lasiopetalum

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
CALM Mundaring District on (08) 9295 1955.**

Wing-fruited lasiopetalum, or *Lasiopetalum pterocarpum*, is named after its winged membranous fruit. The fruit has six to twelve elongated wings that usually consist of five large and several smaller wings. The fruit splits open when mature. The leaves are more obviously lobed than any other species of the genus *Lasiopetalum*. Flowering occurs between September and November.

Wing-fruited lasiopetalum was collected in 1972 by E.Benn and K.Shepherd from near Serpentine. Several other collections have been made, but all were from the same general area.

The species is known from a single location that occurs in the only remaining intact fragment of flooded gum and swamp paperbark woodland on the Darling Scarp.

Due to the rarity of the species and its limited distribution, it was declared as Rare Flora, and ranked as Critically Endangered in 1998.

CALM has set up the Swan Region Threatened Flora Recovery Team to coordinate recovery actions that address threats to the survival of the species in the wild (see overleaf).

Threats include weed invasion by blackberry (*Rubus aff. selmeri*), watsonia (*Watsonia meriana*) and gladioli (*Gladiolus undulatus*), inappropriate fire regimes and changes to stream flows or water quality in the stream that flows adjacent to the population.

The species is currently known from a single population and CALM is 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.



Close up of the flowers and leaves of wing-fruited lasiopetalum. Photo – Andrew 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, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.

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

Protection from current threats: control of weeds; restrict access and rehabilitate unauthorised tracks; ensure appropriate stream flow and water quality adjacent to population; conducting further surveys; and regular monitoring of the health of the population.

Protection from future threats: the development of both a translocation proposal and a fire management strategy; collection and storage of seed at CALM's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (in botanical gardens); and researching the biology and ecology of the species. Other actions include ensuring that relevant authorities, landowners and CALM personnel are aware of the species' presence and the need to protect it, and that all are familiar with the threats identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.



The deeply lobed leaves of wing-fruited lasiopetalum. Photo – Anne Cochrane

IRPs will be deemed a success if the number of individuals within the population and/or the number of populations have increased.



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Habitat of wing-fruited lasiopetalum. Photo – Anne Cochrane



Department of Conservation and Land Management