

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 It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.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

Wongan featherflower

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 Merredin District on (08) 9041 2488.**

Commonly known as Wongan featherflower, *Verticordia staminosa* subsp. *staminosa* is a small spreading, many branched shrub with stalkless leaves to 1.5 centimetres long. It is distinguished by its unusual flowers with long protruding stamens that are bright red with yellow tips. Flowering occurs between June and September.

Wongan featherflower was first collected in 1955 by S. Elliot and was named by Charles Gardner and Alex George in 1963. Alex George divided it into two subspecies and one variety in 1991. All grow in shallow soils on granite outcrops in the Western Australian wheatbelt and are listed as Threatened Flora.

Wongan featherflower is known from a single location near Wongan Hills. There are few current threats to the subspecies, but degradation of the habitat by rabbits, introduced weeds and damage by vehicles has threatened the population in the past. Long-term threats associated with lack of genetic diversity may also be a problem over time.

Due to the extreme rarity of the subspecies and its small range of distribution, it was declared as Rare Flora in October 1980 and ranked as Critically Endangered in November 1998.

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

The subspecies is currently only 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.



Wongan featherflower has unusual flowers with long protruding stamens.
Photo – Babs & Bert Wells/CALM

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.

PAM01356

Wongan featherflower

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

Protection from current threats: repairing a damaged fence; control of weeds; control of rabbits; 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 subspecies. Other actions include ensuring that relevant authorities, landowners and CALM personnel are aware of the subspecies' presence and the need to protect it, and that all are familiar with the threats identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.



Wongan featherflower has small stalkless leaves to 1.5 centimetres long.
Photo – Andrew Brown

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



Natural Heritage Trust
Helping Communities Helping Australia

This poster is sponsored by the Natural Heritage Trust.



Habitat of Wongan featherflower on a single granite outcrop near Wongan Hills. Photo – Andrew Brown



Department of Conservation and Land Management