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Wundowlin wattle

003988

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 Wundowlin wattle, *Acacia sciophanes* is distinguished by its diffuse, open habitat and zig-zagging branches. It grows to 2.5 metres high with several main trunks and drooping branchlets. Its phyllodes (flattened leaf stalks that function as leaves) are up to 15 centimetres long and 1 to 2 millimetres wide. It is easily distinguished from other, more common, wattle species by its phyllodes, which are circular to quadrangular in cross-section and have four prominent ribs running their entire length. The flowers are bright yellow and globular, and occur singly or in pairs near the base of a new shoot. Flowering occurs from late September to November and also earlier during April and May.



A close up of individual flowerheads. Note the narrow, extremely long phyllodes. Photo – Robyn Phillimore

Wundowlin wattle was first collected in 1931 by Charles Gardner. It is known from one locality between Mukinbudin and Bencubbin, where it grows in yellow sandplain in scrub of wattle species and sharp-valved sheoak (*Allocasuarina acutivalvis*).

Due to the extreme rarity of the species and its small distribution, it was declared as Rare Flora in October 1996 and ranked as Critically Endangered in January 1998.

Threats include road and railway maintenance, herbicide application, inappropriate fire regimes and weed invasion.

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

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.



Note the drooping branchlets on a mature plant of Wundowlin wattle. Photo – Robyn Phillimore

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.

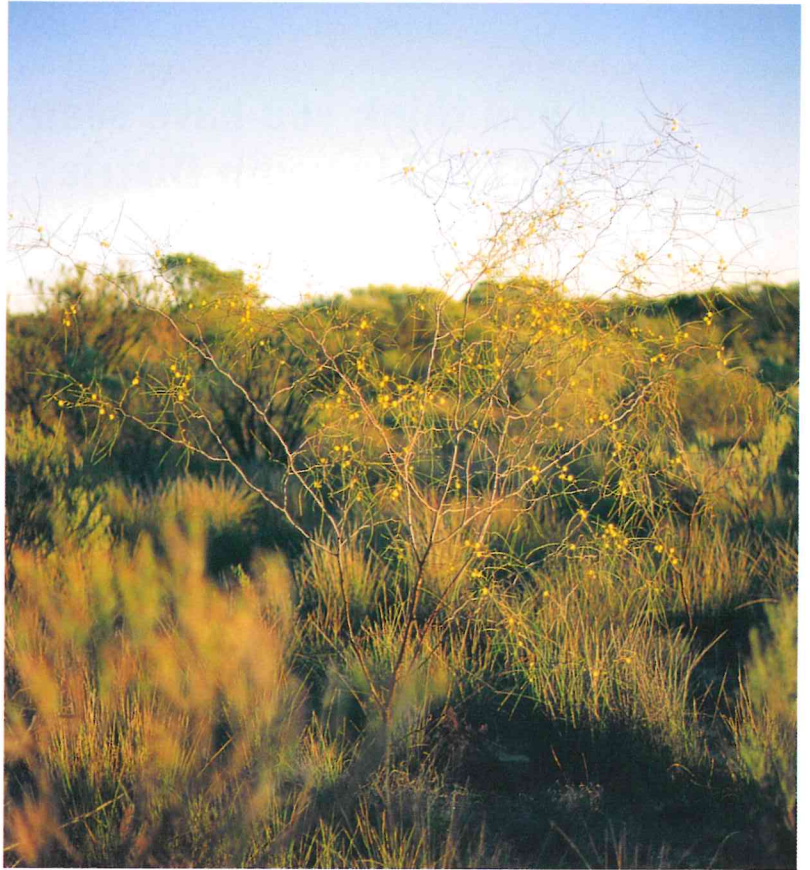
IRPs are prepared by CALM and implemented by Regional or District Recovery Teams consisting of representatives from CALM, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.

Wundowlin wattle

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

Protection from current threats: control of weeds; 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.



A mature plant of Wundowlin wattle. Photo – Rebecca Evans

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 Wundowlin wattle. Photo – Marcelle Buist



Department of Conservation and Land Management