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Department of Biodiversity,
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Blunt wattle

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



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 populations.

Protection from future threats: continued implementation of the approved translocation proposal; development of a fire management strategy; collection and storage of seed at DEC's Threatened Flora Seed Centre; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanic gardens); and researching the biology and ecology of the species. Other actions include ensuring that relevant authorities, landowners and DEC staff 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.



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

This project is funded by the Australian and State governments' investment through the Natural Heritage Trust, administered in the Midwest Region by the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council.



Top and right: Blunt wattle in full flower.
Photos – Gillian Stack

Above right: Habitat of blunt wattle.
Photo – Sue Patrick

Blunt wattle

Endangered flora of Western Australia

If you think you've seen this plant, please call the
Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's)
Moora District on (08) 9652 1911.



Blunt wattle in full flower. Photo – Gillian Stack

Commonly known as blunt wattle, *Acacia aprica* ms is an open multi-stemmed shrub to two metres tall with smooth grey bark, an open canopy and zig-zag branches. The phyllodes (flattened leaf stalks that function as leaves) are dull, medium-green, six to 14 centimetres long by one to 1.4 millimetres wide and have eight parallel nerves. The inflorescences are golden, globular to oblong and hang two on each axil. Flowering occurs between June and August.

Blunt wattle is closely related to thread-leaf wattle (*Acacia filifolia*), which has narrower, slightly incurved rounded-quadrangular phyllodes. It has also been



The golden flowers of blunt wattle. Photo – Andrew Brown

confused with string-leaf wattle (*Acacia merinthophora*), which it resembles in habit, but has a different distribution.

Blunt wattle is endemic to the Carnamah-Coorow area of Western Australia, and was first collected by J. Green in 1957 from an area south of Carnamah. It is known from just 10 populations, and has a range of about 10 kilometres. Of the 10 populations, six consist of 10 plants or fewer, and most are found in highly disturbed

heath on road reserves. The species is found on gravelly brown clayey sand, often with surface quartz.

As most populations occur in highly disturbed situations and the species is affected by loss and fragmentation of habitat, *Acacia aprica* ms was declared as rare flora in November 1997 and ranked as critically endangered in November 1998.

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

The main threats are weed invasion, road and firebreak maintenance and inappropriate fire regimes.

The species is currently only known from 10 populations and DEC is keen to know of any others.

If unable to contact the District Office on the above number, please phone DEC's Species and Communities Branch on (08) 9334 0455.

Recovery of a species

DEC 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 outline the recovery actions that are required to urgently address those threatening processes most affecting the ongoing survival of the threatened species in the wild and begin the recovery process.

IRPs are prepared by DEC and implemented by regional or district recovery teams consisting of representatives from DEC, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, community groups, private landowners, local shires and various government organisations.



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future

