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Department of Biodiversity,
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Red snakebush

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



*Note the low-growing habit of the species.
Photo – E. Holland*

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

Protection from current threats:

control of introduced weeds; the development of a fire protection plan to protect the species from inappropriate fire regimes; and regular monitoring of the health of each population.

Protection from future threats:

the collection of seed; maintenance of live plants away from the wild (i.e. in botanical gardens); conducting further surveys; enhancing plant numbers by removal of weeds, amelioration of some other limiting factor, or by direct propagation and translocation techniques; and researching the biology and ecology of the red snakebush.

Other actions include ensuring that relevant authorities, landowners and DEC staff are aware of red snakebush and the need to protect it, and that all are familiar with the threatening processes identified in the Interim Recovery Plan.



*Above: Red snakebush is usually found in disturbed areas such as along old firebreaks.
Photo – S. Hopper*

Below: A young plant showing the grey-green appearance of new leaves due to the dense covering of hairs. 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.

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.

Red snakebush

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.**



A bright red flowered form of the red snakebush. Photo – Andrew Brown

Commonly known as red snakebush, *Hemiandra gardneri* is a prostrate shrub, forming a mat up to two metres in diameter. Attractive bell-shaped, dark red to pink flowers are found clustered towards the end of the stems between September and October.

The leaves, which are up to 20 millimetres long, green or grey-green, with three raised veins on the lower surface, have a distinctive sharp point at the tip. Often, the plant has a grey appearance, due to the covering of hairs on the leaves.

The species grows in deep yellow to yellow-white sand on sand-plains and hills in low *Banksia* woodlands, being most abundant in open areas between shrubs.

Hemiandra gardneri was first collected from near Watheroo by Charles Gardner in 1926, and then from Wubin (1959) and near Jurien Bay (1978). In 1983, it was known from six sites. By 1995, however, population numbers had plummeted and it was ranked as critically endangered.

DEC has set up the Moora District Threatened Flora Recovery Team to coordinate recovery actions addressing the most threatening processes affecting the species' survival in the wild (see overleaf).

As red snakebush is currently known from only a few populations, 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

