

*Boronia  
megastigma*



## BORONIA RESOURCE SURVEY

Within recent years public concern has intimated that land cleared for agriculture, increased exploitation by pickers and perhaps fires, may be over using and threatening Western Australia's resources of brown boronia (*Boronia megastigma*)—one of the most popular indigenous wild-flowers.

Since the beginning of the century this delightfully perfumed species, which occurred naturally in the wetter areas of the extreme southwest of the State, has been picked to supply a demand for decorative sprays, seeds and concentrates (attar) for the perfume industry.

It ranges sparsely over an area of about 10,000 square miles.

In 1969 the Forests Department arranged for a survey to assess the present boronia resource situation,

which led to the following conclusions:

Picking does not threaten survival, but without burning, boronia has a life span of only seven to ten years before it is suppressed and finally disappears beneath longer lived and more vigorous scrub. Rotational burning seems essential for the continued reproduction of the species.

Burning appears to be advantageous to both seed germination and establishment even in the absence of competition.

Two hundred and fifty known areas on State Forest totalling about 1,000 acres ensure that while many hundreds of acres have been lost through clearing of land alienated for agriculture, very considerable areas are permanently protected as long as the land remains State Forest.