



# ENDANGERED!



## PRICKLY HONEYSUCKLE

Prickly honeysuckle (*Lambertia echinata* subsp. *echinata*) is one of Western Australia's rarest plants. It was first collected in 1802 by Robert Brown, the English botanist attached to Matthew Flinders' voyage. It is still only known from the same collecting area within the Cape Le Grand National Park, which is on the south coast of Western Australia east of Esperance.

In 1980, the species was gazetted as "declared rare flora" because of its extreme rarity. Unfortunately since then, extensive survey work has not revealed any additional areas of distribution.

Prickly honeysuckle is one of ten species of *Lambertia* to be found in Western Australia. It is a many-branched

shrub about one metre tall and is distinguished by its characteristic spiny leaves and attractive pink-red flowers. It most closely resembles *Lambertia propinqua*, whose taxonomy is under review and which may become a subspecies of *L. echinata*. This new subspecies has a more widespread distribution around Albany and it differs

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by Suzanne Curry  
Photos - Andrew Brown (inset)  
and Jiri Lochman

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in having yellow flowers and smaller, less divided leaves.

When not in flower, prickly honeysuckle can be hard to spot because in the scrub where it is found, its leaves superficially resemble the associated species prickly dryandra (*Dryandra armata*).

Although protected within the Cape Le Grand National Park, the honeysuckle, as a member of the Proteaceae family, is highly susceptible to dieback disease, caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Dieback is found in the park and poses a grave danger to this extremely restricted species.

Hopefully, other populations will be found.

# LANDSCOPE

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Twenty-three captive-bred chuditch were recently released in the Julimar forest in an attempt to establish a new population. The story of the 'Return of the Chuditch' is on page 10.



'Back in the Outback' (page 34) follows the trail of endangered mammals recently reintroduced into the Gibson Desert from Barrow Is.



In a remote corner of the Gibson Desert lies Lake Gregory, a birdwatcher's paradise. See page 16.



A silent workforce of volunteers assist CALM with a multitude of projects. Colin Ingram tells us more about these 'Volunteers for Nature' on page 28.



The urban cat vies with its feral cousin and the fox for top spot in the predator stakes. See 'Masterly Marauders' on page 20.

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The chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) was once found in every State and Territory of mainland Australia. Now it is only found in the jarrah forest and parts of the southern wheatbelt in the south-west of WA - about two percent of its former range.

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