

# Flora and vegetation of banded iron formations of the Yilgarn Craton: Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills

RACHEL MEISSNER AND YVETTE CARUSO

Science Division, Department of Environment and Conservation, PO Box 51, Wanneroo, Western Australia, 6946. Email: Rachel.Meissner@dec.wa.gov.au

## ABSTRACT

A study of the flora and plant communities of Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills, east of Morawa, recorded 238 taxa, with 217 native and 21 weeds. Nine priority taxa were found and five new species were identified and are considered endemic to the hills. Fifty quadrats were established to cover the major geographical, geomorphologic and floristic variation across the hills. Data from 48 of these quadrats were used to define five community types, with two subtypes in one community. Differences in communities were strongly correlated with landform and soil fertility. Patterns of high plant endemism and restricted communities are similar to those found on other ranges within the Yilgarn Craton. None of the plant communities found on the Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills is reserved in the conservation estate.

## INTRODUCTION

Banded iron formation ranges within the Yilgarn Craton are highly prospective for iron ore exploration and mining. Previous studies on greenstone and banded ironstone ranges in the Goldfields have found high plant endemism and restricted vegetation types (Gibson et al. 1997; Gibson & Lyons 1998a,b; Gibson & Lyons 2001a,b; Gibson 2004a,b). It is hypothesised that similar patterns would also be found on the ironstone ranges in the Yilgarn Craton. The current knowledge of the vegetation and flora that occur on these ranges is poor and based on Beard's pioneering vegetation mapping (Beard 1976).

The Koolanooka Hills, Aboriginal for hill of wild turkeys (Rogers 1996), is located approximately 20 km east of Morawa. Perenjori Hills is located 10 km southeast of Koolanooka and 12 km to the northeast of Perenjori (Figure 1). Both hills are located near the boundary of the agricultural and pastoral zones in Western Australia, which roughly correlates with the boundary of the Eremaean and Southwest IBRA provinces (Figure 1).

The Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills are part of the Koolanooka synform, one of several Archaean belts within the Yilgarn Craton. The hills strike NNW–SSE and N–S respectively. The banded iron formation within the Koolanooka synform is part of the middle sedimentary association. The association contains siltstones, sandstones, conglomerates interbedded with banded iron formation and shale. This in turn is intruded by granitoids and bounded by upper and lower volcanic associations (Baxter & Lipple 1985). Historically, iron ore was mined in the northern part of Koolanooka Hills between 1966 and 1975 (Baxter & Lipple 1985). Currently, there is interest in further exploiting the iron ore resources of Koolanooka Hills.

The climate of the region is dry warm mediterranean (Beard 1990) with a mild wet winters and hot dry summers. Mean annual rainfall recorded at Morawa is 333.8 mm, but not as variable in more arid regions (227.8 mm 1<sup>st</sup> decile; 453.7 mm 9<sup>th</sup> decile; recorded 1911 to 2004). Rain primarily falls in winter, derived mainly from cold fronts moving in an easterly direction over the Indian Ocean. Summer rains are unpredictable and tend to occur later in the season. Summer rains originate from troughs and depressions and sometimes tropical cyclones off the northwest coast of Western Australia (Rogers 1996).

The highest maximum temperatures occur during summer, with the January as hottest month (mean maximum temperature 36.7 °C with mean of 7.4 days above 40 °C). Winters are mild with lowest mean maximum temperatures recorded for July of 18.1 °C. Temperatures rarely fall below 0 °C in winter (a mean of 0.2 days below 0 °C), with a mean minimum of 6.2 °C in July.

The Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills were described by Beard (1976) as a single vegetation system, the Koolanooka system, consisting of *Allocasuarina huegeliana*, *Eucalyptus ebbanoensis*, *Acacia acuminata*, *Dodonaea inaequifolia* interspersed with communities of *Allocasuarina campestris*, *Acacia acuminata*, *Grevillea paradoxa*, *Melaleuca cordata*, *Melaleuca nematophylla* and *Melaleuca radula*. The footslopes grade into *Eucalyptus loxophleba* woodlands interspersed with the thickets.

Koolanooka vegetation system was endorsed by the Minister for Environment as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) in 2001. The TEC, plant assemblages of the Koolanooka system, is based upon Beard's (1976) vegetation system described above, covering the entire extent of both hills, approximately 4500ha. It is currently ranked vulnerable following English and Blythe (1999).

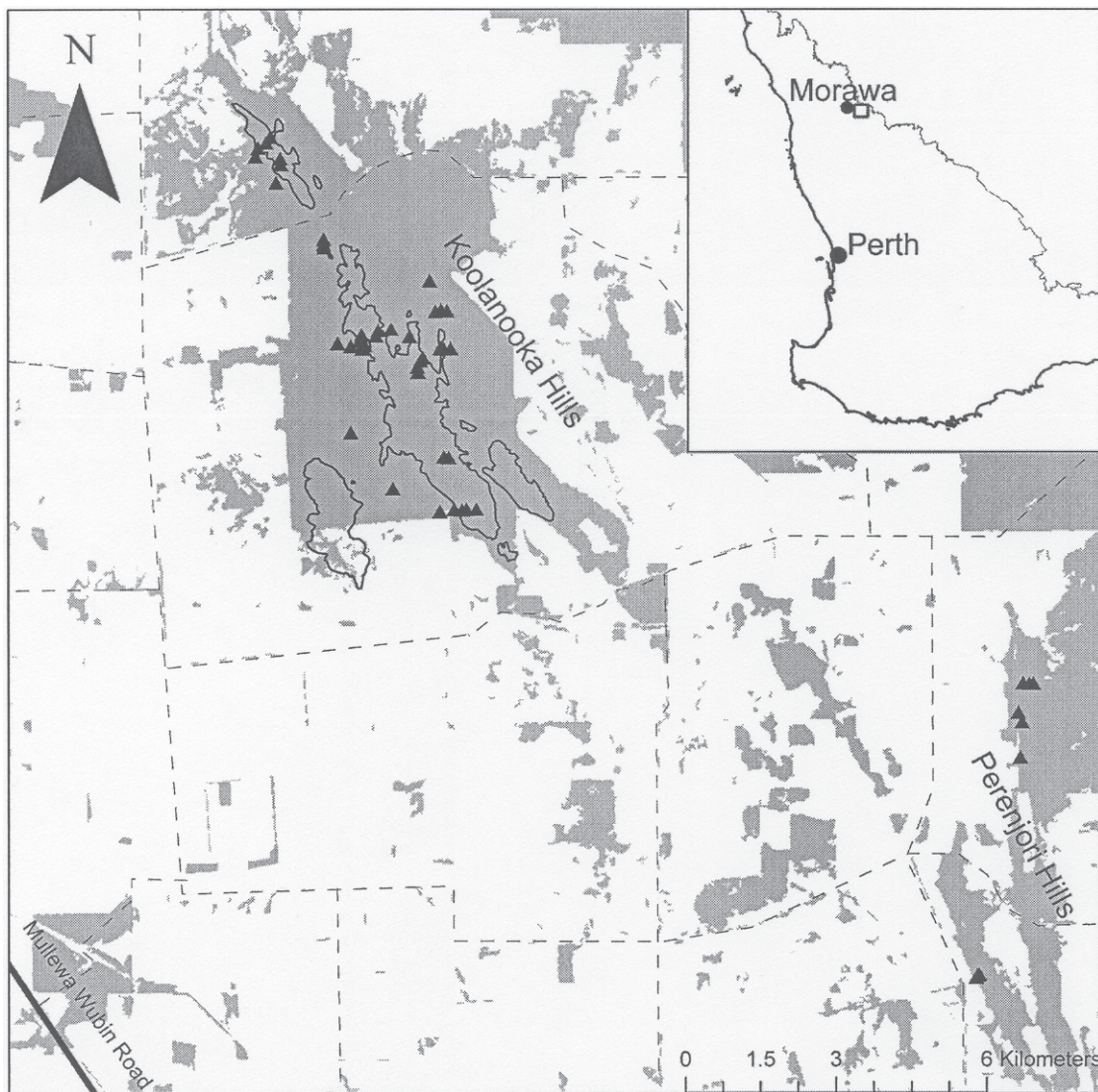


Figure 1. Location of survey and distribution of quadrats (▲) on Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills. The 340 m contour is shown, with remnant vegetation represented by shaded areas represent, dashed lines represent roads. In the inset, the grey line represents the zone between the Southwest and Eremaean provinces.

The aim of the present work was to undertake a detailed floristic survey of the Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills and to identify the plant communities that occur on the ranges. This was achieved by detailed flora lists, and description of plant communities based on a series of permanently established quadrats. Ultimately, the aim is to place these communities in a regional context with other banded ironstone ranges throughout the Yilgarn Craton.

## METHODS

Fifty 20 x 20 m quadrats were established on the crests, slopes and foot slopes of Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills in October 2005 (Figure 1). These quadrats were established to cover the major geographical, geomorphologic and floristic variation found in the study area. Each quadrat was permanently marked with four steel

fence droppers and their positions determined using a GPS unit. All vascular plants within the quadrat were recorded and collected for later identification at the Western Australian Herbarium.

Data on topographical position, disturbance, abundance, size and shape of coarse fragments on the surface, the amount of exposed bedrock, cover of leaf litter and bare ground were recorded following McDonald et al. (1990). Additionally, growth form, height and cover were recorded for dominant taxa in each stratum (tallest, mid- and lower).

Twenty soil samples were collected from the upper 10 cm of the soil profile within each quadrat. The soil was bulked and the 2 mm fraction analysed for B, Ca, Cd, Co, Cu, Fe, K, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Ni, P, Pb, S and Zn using the Mehlich No. 3 procedure (Mehlich 1984). The extracted samples were then analysed using Inductively Coupled Plasma – Atomic Emission Spectrometer (ICP-

AES). This procedure is an effective and cost efficient alternative to traditional methods for evaluating soil fertility and has been calibrated for Western Australian soils (Walton & Allen 2004). pH was measured in 0.01M CaCl<sub>2</sub> at soil to solution ratio of 1:5. Effective cation exchange capacity (eCEC) was calculated from the sum of exchangeable Ca, Mg, Na and K (Rengasamy & Churchman 1999). Exchangeable Ca, Mg, Na and K were obtained by multiplying the values of Ca, Mg, Na and K obtained from ICP-AES by a standard constant.

Quadrats were classified on the basis of similarity in species composition on perennial species only, to be consistent with other analyses of banded ironstone ranges (Gibson 2004 a, b). Perennials were also more consistent across season and amount of pre-survey rainfall. Life form followed Paczkowska and Chapman (2000), where perennial is defined as a plant whose life span extends over 2 or more growing seasons. The quadrat and species classifications were undertaken using the Bray and Curtis coefficient and Flexible UPGMA (Unweighted pair-group mean average;  $\hat{a} = -0.1$ ; Belbin 1989). Indicator species and species assemblages characterising each community were determined following Dufrene and Legendre (1997) using the INDVAL routine in PC-ORD (McCune & Mefford 1999). Quadrats were ordinated using SSH (semi-strong hybrid multidimensional scaling), correlations of environmental variables were determined using the PCC (Principal Component Correlation) routine and significance determined by the MCAO (monte-carlo attributes in ordination) permutation test in PATN (Belbin 1989).

Statistical relationships between quadrat groups were tested using Kruskal-Wallis non parametric analysis of variance (Siegel 1956), followed by non-parametric comparison (Zar 1999). Correlations between environmental parameters were analysed using Spearman Rank correlation coefficient.

Nomenclature generally follows Paczkowska and Chapman (2000).

## RESULTS

### Flora

A total of 237 taxa from 53 families were recorded from the 50 established quadrats and adjacent areas. Of these 237 taxa, 216 were native and 21 weeds. The dominant families in order were Asteraceae (39 species, 3 weeds), Myrtaceae (21), Poaceae (21 species, 11 weeds), Mimosaceae (19) and Chenopodiaceae (11).

### Rare and Priority Flora

Nine priority taxa (designated P1, P2, P3) were found during the survey of Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills.

- *Acacia acanthoclada* subsp. *glaucescens* (P3) is an intricately branched shrub to 2 m with pungent branchlets and glaucous phyllodes. It was found growing in open forests and mallee woodlands and

of *E. ebbanoensis* or *E. loxophleba* subsp. *supralaevis*. It has been previously found on Koolanooka Hills.

- *Baeckea* sp. Perenjori (J.W. Green 1516) (P2) is a small myrtaceous shrub to 1.5 m with pink flowers. This taxon is restricted to the Morawa and Perenjori region. In this survey, it was found growing on the crests and slopes of Perenjori and Koolanooka Hills.
- *Gunniopsis rubra* (P3) is a small succulent herb to 10 cm growing on water gaining sites in sandy loam. A single collection was made of this taxon from a colluvial outwash site, growing under mallee woodlands of *Eucalyptus subangusta* subsp. *pusilla* and *Eucalyptus ebbanoensis* subsp. *ebbanoensis*.
- *Melaleuca barlowii* (P1) is a myrtaceous shrub to 1.8 m known mainly from the Mullewa and Morawa area growing on roadside reserves. It has been collected previously from Koolanooka Hills. In this survey, it was collected from two sites on Koolanooka Hills, growing in shrublands of *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* on a lower and mid slope.
- *Millotia dimorpha* (P1) is a small yellow flowered daisy characteristically with two rows of glandular involucre bracts. This species is poorly collected, and originally known only from Koolanooka Hills and Kadji Kadji Station. It has recently been found growing on the slopes of Mount Karara, east of Kadji Kadji (Markey and Dillon, 2008).
- *Mribelia* sp. Helena and Aurora (B.J. Lepschi 2003) (P3) is a perennial, leaf less but pungent shrub to 3m. Originally found only on the Helena and Aurora Ranges in the western Goldfields, it was found growing on the mid to upper slopes of Koolanooka Hills with *A. acutivalvis* and *E. ebbanoensis*. This is a new record for Koolanooka Hills and a range extension of over 400km for the species.
- *Persoonia pentasticha* (P2) is a proteaceous shrub to 2 m with pungent five ribbed leaves. In this survey, it was found at two sites on crests of Koolanooka Hills, growing in open forests of *A. acutivalvis* and *E. ebbanoensis*.
- *Rhodanthe collina* (P1) is an annual daisy with small delicate flowers. It is known mainly from the pastoral stations near Paynes Find on flats and water gaining sites. A single specimen was found on Koolanooka Hills on a rocky midslope. This is a new record, range extension and population for the area.
- *Stenanthemum poicilum* (P2) is small shrub to 50 cm that was found growing on the crests and upper slopes of Koolanooka Hills in open mallee forests and woodlands of *E. ebbanoensis* and *A. acutivalvis*. It has been previously collected from rocky sites in the Morawa area. This a new record for Koolanooka Hills.

### New Species

During the survey, six new species were identified. These taxa are apparently endemic to the Koolanooka and

Perenjori Hills. Further surveys are required to determine the distribution and population size of each taxon. Further taxonomic work is also required to determine taxonomic rank of several of the taxa.

- *Acacia muriculata* is a shrub to 2 m found growing only on the slopes and crests of Koolanooka Hills in open mallee forests and woodlands of *E. ebbanoensis* and *A. acutivalvis*. It is characterised by hairy verruculose-ribbed branchlets and falcate phyllodes with solitary globular flowers (Maslin & Buscomb 2007). It has recently been listed as Priority One species and is known only from Koolanooka Hills.
- *Acacia graciliformis* is an openly branched shrub to 2 m with slender stems and short pungent phyllodes. It was found at four sites growing in *Eucalyptus* woodlands crests and slopes of Koolanooka Hills. This species is closely allied to *Acacia mackeyana* and *A. dissona* which differ significantly from the species in their phyllode nervature (Maslin & Buscomb 2007). It has been listed as a Priority One species due to its restricted habitat and location.
- *Caesia* sp. Koolanooka Hills (R.Meissner & Y.Caruso 78) is a geophyte to 30 cm with pale yellow flowers growing on crests and slopes of Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills. The species is closely related to *Caesia* sp. Wongan (K.F. Kennelly 8820) but with smaller, pallid flowers and spreading anthers. It may belong to a sub-group of the genus that is endemic to ironstone ranges, including such species as *Caesia* sp. Ennuin (N.Gibson & M.N.Lyons 2737) (G. Keighery<sup>1</sup>, pers. comm.). The occurrence on the ranges is unusual as most *Caesia* spp. grow in deep clay soils on flats and plains.
- *Dodonaea scurra* is a dioecious shrub to 1 m with verticillate leaves and solitary flowers. It is closely allied to *Dodonaea caespitosa* but is distinguished by relatively more clustered leaves per node and distinctly rounded capsules with simple scattered hairs (Shepherd et al. 2007). It was found only on the slopes and crests of Koolanooka Hills in several different communities. There was one previous collection in the Western Australian Herbarium of this taxon, which was misidentified, from the Koolanooka Hills. It has recently been listed as Priority One due to its limited distribution to Koolanooka Hills.
- *Drummondita rubroviridis* is a spindly shrub to 1.5 m with glandular clavate leaves, held recurved to horizontal, and subsessile, solitary flowers that possess red petals with green tips (Meissner & Markey 2007). It is closely related to *D. wilsonii* and *D. ericoides*, both taxa with restricted distributions (Mollemans 1993). This species was only found on the slopes and crests of Koolanooka Hills, growing mainly in

open mallee forests and woodlands of *E. ebbanoensis* and *A. acutivalvis*.

- *Lepidosperma* sp. Koolanooka (K. Newbey 9336) is a sedge to 50 cm found growing on the slopes of Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills in open forests and shrublands of *A. acutivalvis* or *A. campestris*. Although previously collected from Koolanooka, it was not recognised as a new species until the current survey collected sufficient material for the status to be determined with confidence. It is closely related to another newly discovered granite endemic, *Lepidosperma* sp. Karara (H.Pringle 3865) found growing on granite outcrops on Karara Station.

### Flora of taxonomic interest

- *Hibbertia* aff. *exasperata* belongs to a complex, including *Hibbertia rostellata*, *Hibbertia nutans* and *Hibbertia uncinata*, of unresolved taxonomy (Wheeler 2004). Further work needs to be undertaken to elucidate the taxonomic relationships within this complex. The species was collected only from the slopes and crests of Koolanooka Hills, mainly from mallee woodlands of *E. ebbanoensis* and *A. acutivalvis*.
- *Eucalyptus ebbanoensis* subsp. *glaucciramula* is a mallee to 3 to 6m and was collected from both ranges. It was commonly the dominant *Eucalyptus* and was found across the landscape, from crests to lower slopes and plains. It has previously been collected from the range. The nearest populations are nearly 400 km to the east in the Goldfields.
- *Labichea lanceolata* subsp. *brevifolia* is a shrub to 3m. It was found growing at single site on a midslope of Koolanooka Hills, in an open forest of *A. acutivalvis*. The taxon is found in three discrete areas; around Esperance, York and an outlying northern population. The specimen collected in this survey belongs to the northern variant of the taxon, found in scattered populations between Geraldton and Morawa. These collections have narrow leaves and look superficially more like *Labichea eremaea* than *L. lanceolata*, but differ from the former as they have 4 rather than 5 sepals. Revision of this taxon is required.
- *Tetraria* aff. *capillaris* is a sedge with curly leaves growing to 50 cm. It was found growing at a single site on Koolanooka Hills in *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *acutivalvis* woodland with *M. nematophylla*, *H.* aff. *exasperata* and *L.* sp. Koolanooka (K.Newbey 9336). It is closely allied to *Tetraria capillaris* and this complex is in need of taxonomic revision (R. Barrett<sup>2</sup>, pers. comm.).

<sup>1</sup> Science Division, Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia

<sup>2</sup> Science Directorate, Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Western Australia

## Plant Communities

Initial analysis of the data with all species excluding singletons (species which occurred in only one plot) compared to an analysis of data with only perennial species revealed little difference in the groupings and ordination. Ninety eight perennial taxa were included in the final analysis. Subspecies of *E. ebbanoensis* and *A. acutivalvis* were reduced to species level for the analysis, due to the difficulty in differentiating between subspecies without sufficient flowering or fruiting material.

Forty eight quadrats out of the fifty established on the ranges were used in the final analysis. In the initial analysis, two quadrats were outliers and subsequent removal improved the ordination stress. Quadrat KOOL26 was a species poor *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* woodland occurring over limestone and KOOL36 was an open shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Calycophyllum paucifolium* and had a high percentage of weeds present, probably due to high levels of disturbance. Both sites had high levels of calcium, magnesium and high pH.

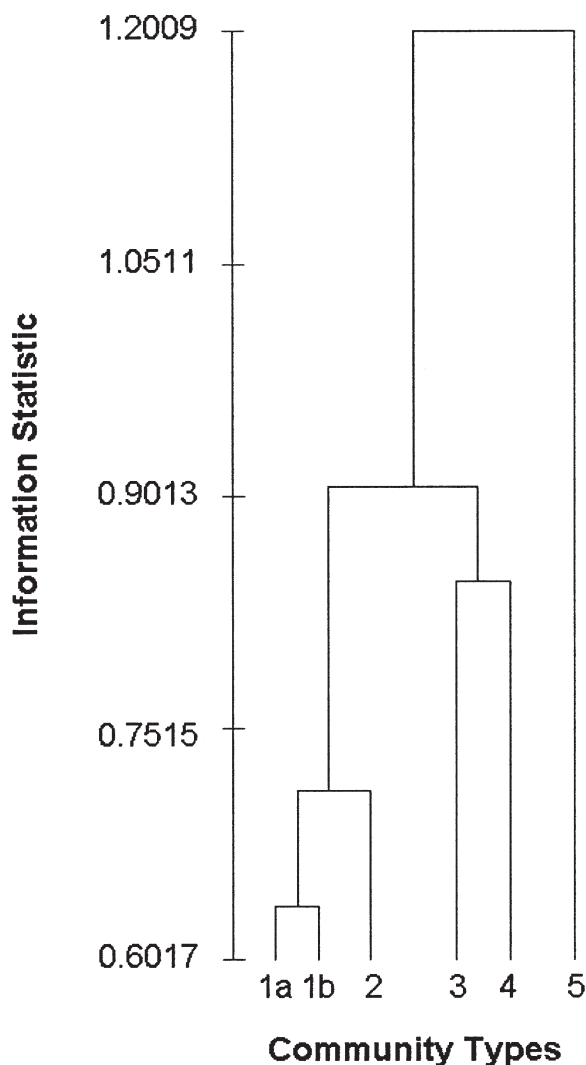


Figure 2. Dendrogram of 6 group level classification of 48 quadrats established at Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills.

Community groups were separated into 5 groups, based upon clear pattern in the final dendrogram. This pattern was also the first division separates the *Allocasuarina* shrublands and thickets (Communities 1-4) from the more fertile woodland sites (Community 5; Figure 2). The second division separates communities restricted mainly to the crests, upper and mid slopes of Koolanooka Hills (Communities 1 and 2) from communities common between Perenjori and Koolanooka Hills (Community 3) and communities found on the lower slopes of Koolanooka (Community 4). These divisions can also be clearly seen in the sorted two-way table of the sites and species classification (Table 1).

In total, five community types, one with two subtypes, were recognised.

**Community 1** – Woodlands, mallee shrublands and shrublands of *A. acutivalvis*, *E. ebbanoensis* over shrublands of *Acacia* spp. and Myrtaceae spp. The community occurs only on crests and slopes of Koolanooka Hills and can be further divided into 2 subtypes.

**Community type 1a** – This community is found only on Koolanooka Hills on all landforms except colluvial outwashes. It is described as mallee shrublands, shrublands and woodlands of *A. acutivalvis*, *E. ebbanoensis* and *Melaleuca* spp. over shrublands with *Micromyrtus racemosa*, *G. paradoxa* and *M. sp.* Helena and Aurora (B.J. Lepschi 2003) present. The community had the lowest mean species richness (annuals and perennials) of all communities (mean  $32.3 \pm 0.6$  species per quadrat). The best indicator species are *Acacia neurophylla* subsp. *neurophylla*, *Cheiranthra filifolia* var. *simplicifolia*, *D. rubroviridis*, *E. ebbanoensis*, *G. paradoxa*, *Micromyrtus racemosa* subsp. *racemosa*, *Melaleuca atroviridis*, *M. sp.* Helena and Aurora (B.J. Lepschi 2003) and *Thysanotus manglesianus* (Table 1).

**Community type 1b** – This community is only found on the slopes of Koolanooka Hills. It is best described as woodlands and shrublands of *A. acutivalvis* with an understorey of *L. sp.* Koolanooka (K.Newbey 9336), *Pimelea avonensis*, and *Acacia nigripilosa* subsp. *nigripilosa*. Mean species richness was  $34.0 \pm 0.5$  species per quadrat. Indicator species were *A. nigripilosa* subsp. *nigripilosa*, *Austrostipa hemipogon*, *C. sp.* Koolanooka Hills (R.Meissner & Y.Caruso 78), *L. sp.* Koolanooka (K. Newbey 9336), *M. nematophylla*, *P. avonensis* and *Tricoryne elatior*. This community is characterised by taxa from Species groups D and G (Table 1).

**Community type 2** – This community occurs only on Koolanooka Hills, mainly on crests and upper slopes and contains taxa from Species group A (Table 1). It can be described as mallee woodlands and shrublands of *E. ebbanoensis* and *A. acutivalvis*. This community had the second highest species richness with a mean of  $38.6 \pm 1.3$  species per quadrat. Indicator species were *S. poecilum*, *H. aff. exasperata*, *A. acutivalvis* and *Ptilotus obovatus* subsp. *obovatus*.

**Community type 3** – This community occurs on midslopes and crests of Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills. It can be described as open woodlands, shrublands and open shrublands of *Allocasuarina* spp., *M. nematophylla*, and

*C. paucifolius* over a mixed shrubland of *D. inaequifolia* and *Philotheca brucei* subsp. *brucei*. The community had the highest species richness with a mean of  $39.4 \pm 0.6$  species per quadrat. Indicator species for this community are *Acacia exocaroides*, *C. paucifolius*, *D. inaequifolia* and *P. brucei* subsp. *brucei*. Taxa in the community are mainly from species groups A, D, F and G (Table 1).

**Community type 4** – This community was found mainly on low fertility lower slopes of Koolanooka Hills. The vegetation is shrublands and open shrublands of *Allocasuarina* spp., *M. cordata*, *Hemigenia* sp. Paynes Find (A.C. Beaglehole 49138) and *Mirbelia microphylla*. This community had a mean species richness of  $34.4 \pm 1.6$  species per quadrat and is comprised of taxa from species group D, I and J (Table 1). The Best indicator species are *Acacia stereophylla* var. *stereophylla*, *A. campestris*, *Drosera macrantha* subsp. *macrantha*, *Grevillea obliquistigma* subsp. *obliquistigma*, *H.* sp. Paynes Find (A.C. Beaglehole 39138), *Hibbertia arcuata*, *M. cordata*, *M. microphylla*, *Monachather paradoxus* and *Stypandra glauca*.

**Community type 5** – This community was found on both ranges. It occurs on colluvial outwash soils from the ranges, and sites occurring in pockets of fertile soil within community type 1. The vegetation is woodlands and mallee woodlands of *Eucalyptus* spp. (*E. loxophleba*, *E. ebbanoensis* or *E. salmonophloia*) over *Acacia* spp. and chenopods. The community had a mean species richness of  $34.2 \pm 0.8$  species per quadrat. The best indicator species are *Acacia andrewsii*, *Acacia erinacea*, *Austrodanthonia caespitosa*, *Austrostipa trichophylla*, *Enchylaena lanata*, *Maireana carnososa*, *Maireana georgei*, *Rhagodia drummondii*, *Scaevola spinescens*, *Sclerolaena diacantha* and *Senna charlesiana*. The community is characterised by taxa from species groups A and C (Table 1), which are typical of soils of high pH.

## Physical parameters

The soil chemistry showed significant intercorrelations with other soil parameters. Iron had the most correlations with physical site parameters. It was positively correlated with slope, aspect, maximum surface rock fragment size and rock outcrop abundance, but negatively with leaf litter cover (Table 2).

There were few correlations between physical site characters. Slope, rock outcrop abundance, maximum surface rock size and run off were positively intercorrelated (Table 2).

Phosphorus, pH, magnesium and cobalt were all high in Community 5, indicating sites of higher fertility. Low phosphorus and magnesium separated Communities 1 and 4 from the other communities (Table 3).

Communities 2 and 5 showed similar values in phosphorus, cobalt, magnesium and pH. Community 3 differed from the latter with the highest phosphorus values but significantly lower pH (Table 3).

Community 3 had significantly greater coarse fragment size and abundance than Community 5, which occurred on the colluvial outwashes and deeper fertile soils (Table

4). The remaining communities did not differ from Communities 3 and 5 in these site characters. Community 4 occurred on lower slopes and differed only from Community 3, which occurred predominantly on crests and midslopes. The cover of surficial rock (rock outcrop abundance) was greatest in Community 2, followed by Community 3 (Table 4).

The three dimensional ordination (stress = 0.17) clearly separated the majority of the communities (Figure 3). The most common community type found on Koolanooka Hills (Community 1a) is on the left side of the ordination, characterised by lower fertility (low phosphorous and potassium). Community 1b occurred in the upper left quadrant with lower pH and an increase in coarse fragment abundance. The woodlands on colluvial soils and on the slopes of the hills (Community 5) also clearly separated out from the other communities. This community was found in the lower right quadrant and was characterised by higher pH and Co and occurrences on predominantly lower slopes and flats. Community 3, common between Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills, occurred in the upper right quadrant. This community can be characterised by the higher abundance of rocky outcrops and steeper slopes, and high phosphorus. Community 2 and 4 occur in the centre of the ordination but separate in the third dimension (not shown). The soil of Community 4 has characteristically lower fertility and is found on gently inclined slopes, while Community 2 was on soils of intermediate fertility.

## DISCUSSION

### Flora

The total of 238 taxa and the pattern of dominant families recorded for Koolanooka Hills are similar to other ironstone and greenstone ranges surveyed in the Eastern goldfields (see Gibson 2004a). Six endemic species were identified during the survey, similar to the number of endemics found on other ironstone ranges (Gibson 2004b).

The patterns of endemism and priority species on ironstone ranges are high. A concurrent survey in the Central Talling found 15 priority species and 9 endemic taxa (*cf.* 8 species and 6 taxa, respectively, in this survey) (Markey & Dillon, 2008). The Central Talling survey covered a greater area and sampled twice the number of quadrats, making it even more significant the high number of endemic species found in this survey.

Three of the endemic species, *A. muriculata*, *C.* sp. Koolanooka (R. Meissner & Y. Caruso 78) and *D. rubroviridis* (R. Meissner & Y. Caruso 69), were collected for the first time. *Acacia muriculata*, *A. graciliformis*, *D. scurra* and *D. rubroviridis* appear to be restricted to Koolanooka Hills and were not found on Perenjori Hills, while *Caesia* sp. Koolanooka (R. Meissner & Y. Caruso 78) and *L.* sp. Koolanooka (K. Newbey 9336) occur on both.

Recent taxonomic work has discovered several

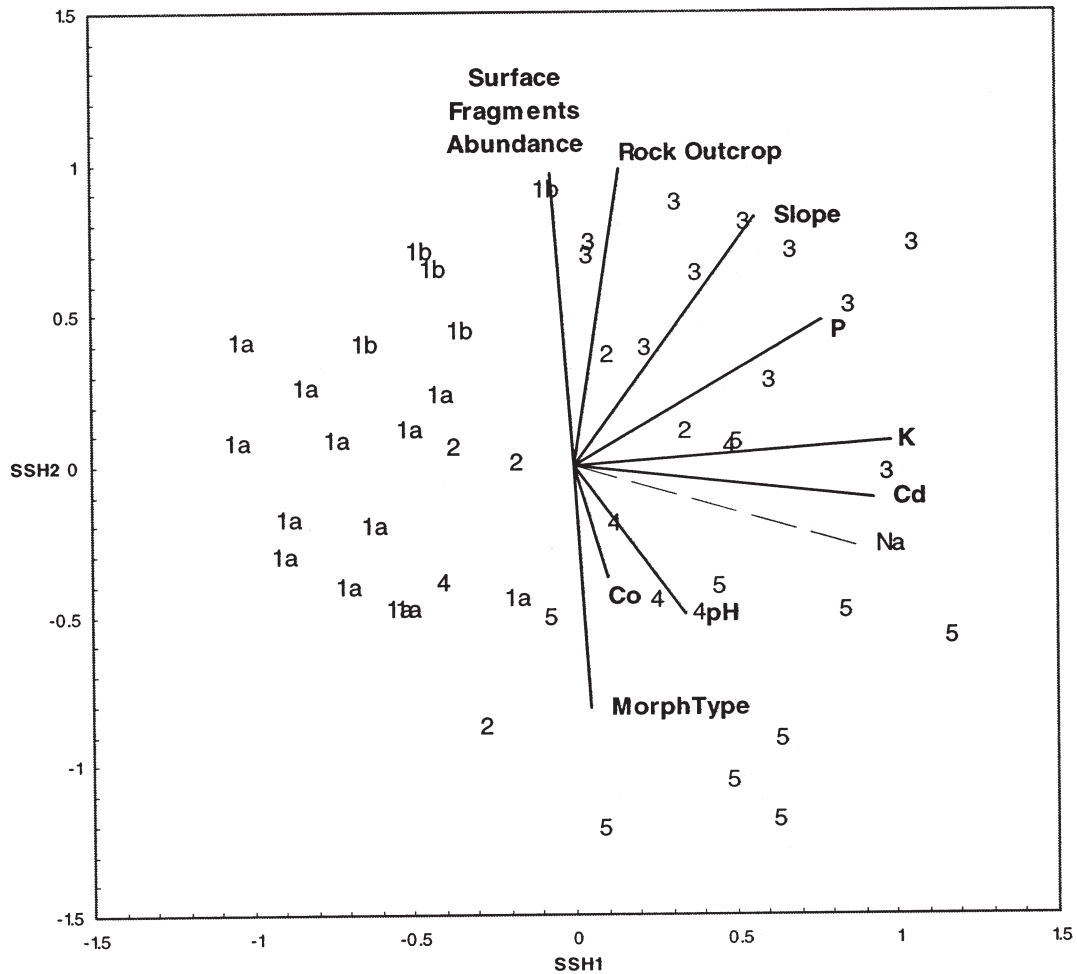


Figure 3. Two dimensional representation of a three dimensional ordination showing only axis 1 and 2 of the 48 quadrats established on Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills and represented by community type. Lines represent the strength and direction of the best fit linear correlated variables. Unbroken and dashed lines represent significance at  $P < 0.01$  and  $P < 0.05$  respectively. Abbreviations as in Table 4.

additional taxa of *Lepidosperma* that are endemic to banded ironstone ranges, such as *Lepidosperma gibsonii*, *L. ferricola* and *Lepidosperma* sp Karara (Markey and Dillon 3468) (R. Barrett<sup>3</sup>, pers. comm., Barrett 2007). This group is currently undergoing a much needed revision.

Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills occurs close to the boundary between two provinces, Southwest and Eremaean (Beard 1990). The flora found within this survey showed a greater affinity to the Southwest flora (e.g. *Prilotus drummondii*, *Alyxia buxifolia*, *Hibbertia* spp. and *Allocasuarina* spp.) than Eremaean. Those Eremaean taxa present at Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills showed considerable range extensions, especially *Eucalyptus ebbanoensis* subsp. *glauciramula* and *Mirbelia* sp. Helena & Aurora (B.J. Lepschi 2003), found in the eastern goldfields.

### Communities

Vegetation on Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills is described by Beard (1976) as the same system; however, there were differences in communities between Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills. Three of the communities, 1, 2 and 4 were found only on Koolanooka Hills while Communities 3 and 5 were found on both Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills. Perenjori Hills is smaller in extent than Koolanooka, and in some places the vegetation has been cleared up to the lower slopes. In addition, there is a history of sheep grazing in Perenjori Hills, but only feral goat grazing is known at Koolanooka.

Community types were found to be correlated with soil fertility, landscape position, soil depth and surface rockiness. Low phosphorus and potassium separate Communities 1 and 4, restricted to Koolanooka Hills, from the more fertile sites. The two communities occur on very different landforms with Community 1 occurring on skeletal soils on crests and slopes, while Community 4 is found on the lower slopes of the ranges. In contrast,

<sup>3</sup> Science Directorate, Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Western Australia

Community 2, which is also restricted to Koolanooka Hills, shows higher levels of phosphorus. It is found on a similar landform to Community 1 but mainly on sites with laterised banded ironstone and with higher cover of surficial rocks.

Community 3 is found on both Perenjori and Koolanooka Hills and showed highest phosphorus levels, but had lower pH. It was commonly found on steeper slopes and crests and often with a higher cover of surficial rocks, some weakly metamorphosed banded ironstone but no tertiary laterites.

Community 5 is typical of the woodlands surrounding many of the greenstone and ironstone ranges in the Yilgarn Craton (see Gibson 2004b). At Koolanooka it occurred on the colluvial flats at the bases of both hills and also on pockets of fertile soils on slopes and small valleys between hills. The communities are likely to be responding to the higher nutrients and pH, and possibly deeper soils required for larger trees to survive.

Gradients in the floristics and associated environmental variables occur in the study area. Communities 1b and 3 occurred on rockier sites which were always associated with a higher position in the landscape. The soils in these areas are often shallower with higher phosphorus, a characteristic of soils derived from the ironstone (Gray & Murphy 2002). In contrast, the lower colluvial and lower slope communities (4 and 5) the soils were relatively higher in nutrients, and in the case of the woodlands, possessing deeper soil. This is the likely result of the enrichment by leachates and colluvium from the surrounding ridges.

Beard (1976) mapped Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills as a single vegetation system, the Koolanooka system. A vegetation system encompasses a series of plant communities recurring in a catenary sequence or mosaic pattern linked to topographic, pedological and/or geological features (Beard 1981). This present study shows the broad vegetation system as comprised of five plant communities. The current definition of the Koolanooka TEC should be re-evaluated and incorporate these communities.

In Beard's (1976) description of the Koolanooka system, he notes *Allocasuarina huegeliana* as the dominant taxon (*cf. A. acutivalvis* in this survey). There is no record of *A. huegeliana* from Koolanooka or Perenjori Hills in the Western Australian Herbarium, and is probably a misidentification. Furthermore, within the vegetation system he also mapped two structural units that largely correspond to Communities 1 and 5.

The plant communities on Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills, especially the three restricted to Koolanooka, are currently under increasing threat from mining and none of the area is currently reserved.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the following people: Dave Allen, WA Chemcentre for Soil Analysis; Andrew Moore, Solomon family, Butler family, Midwest Corporation and

Mount Gibson Iron for their cooperation and access to the sites in the field survey; the staff at the Western Australian Herbarium, especially Karina Knight; and Russell Barrett, Rob Davies, Malcolm French, Mike Hislop, Greg Keighery, Bruce Maslin, Frank Obbens, Sue Patrick, Barbara Rye, Malcolm Trugeon and Paul Wilson for their taxonomic expertise. And finally, Neil Gibson, for his advice and support. This work was funded by the Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia.

## REFERENCES

- Barrett RL (2007) New species of *Lepidosperma* (Cyperaceae) associated with banded ironstone on southern Western Australia. *Nuytsia*, 17, 37–60.
- Baxter JL, Lipple SL (1985) *1:250 000 Geological Series – Explanatory Notes. Perenjori, Western Australia*. Geological Survey of Western Australia, Perth.
- Beard JS (1976) *Vegetation survey of Western Australia. The Vegetation of the Perenjori Area, Western Australia. Map and Explanatory Memoir 1:250000 series*. Vegmap Publications, Perth.
- Beard JS (1981) *Vegetation survey of Western Australia. Swan 1:1000000 Vegetation Series. Explanatory Notes to Sheet 7. The Vegetation of the Swan Area*. University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Beard JS (1990) *Plant Life of Western Australia*. Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, NSW.
- Belbin L (1989) *PATN Technical Reference*. CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology, ACT.
- Duffrene M, Legendre P (1997) Species assemblages and indicator species: the need for a flexible asymmetrical approach. *Ecological Monographs*, 67, 345–366.
- English V, Blythe J (1999) Development and application of procedures to identify and conserve threatened ecological communities in the South-west Botanical Province of Western Australia. *Pacific Conservation Biology*, 5, 124–138.
- Gibson N, Lyons MN, Lepschi BJ (1997) Flora and vegetation of the eastern goldfield ranges, 1 Helena and Aurora Range. *CALMScience*, 2, 231–246.
- Gibson N, Lyons MN (1998a) Flora and vegetation of the eastern goldfields ranges: Part 2. Bremer Range. *Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia*, 81, 107–129.
- Gibson N, Lyons MN (1998b) Flora and vegetation of the eastern goldfields ranges: Part 3. Parker Range. *Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia*, 81, 119–117.
- Gibson N, Lyons MN (2001a) Flora and vegetation of the eastern goldfields ranges: Part 4. Highclere Hills. *Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia*, 84, 71–81.



- Gibson N, Lyons MN (2001b) Flora and vegetation of the eastern goldfields ranges: Part 5. Hunt Range, Yendeilberin and Watt Hills. *Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia*, **84**, 129–142.
- Gibson N (2004a) Flora and vegetation of the eastern goldfields ranges: Part 6. Mt Manning Range. *Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia*, **87**, 35–47.
- Gibson N (2004b) Flora and vegetation of the eastern goldfields ranges: Part 7. Middle and South Ironcap, Digger Rock and Hatter Hill. *Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia*, **87**, 49–62.
- Gray JM, Murphy BW (2002) Parent material and soil distribution. *The Journal of the Australian Association of Natural Resource Management*. **5**, 2 – 12.
- Markey AS, Dillon SJ (2008) Flora and vegetation of the Banded Iron Formations of the Yilgarn Craton: the central Tallering Land System. *Conservation Science Western Australia* **7**(1), 121–149.
- Maslin BR, Buscumb C (2007) Two new species of *Acacia* (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae) from the Koolanooka Hills in the northern wheatbelt region of south-west Western Australia, *Nuytsia*, **17**, 253–262.
- McCune B, Mefford MJ (1999) *PC-ORD. Multivariate Analysis of Ecological Data, Version 4*. MjM Software Design, Gleneden Beach, Oregon, USA.
- McDonald RC, Isbell RF, Speight JG, Walker J, Hopkins MS (1990) *Australian soil and land survey: field handbook*. Second Edition. Department of Primary Industries and Energy and CSIRO Australia.
- Mehlich A (1984) Mehlich 3 soil test extractant : A modification of Mehlich 2. *Communications of Soil Science and Plant Analysis* **15**, 1409–1416.
- Meissner RA, Markey AS (2007) Two new Western Australian species of *Drummondita* (Rutaceae: Boroniace) from banded ironstone ranges of the Yilgarn Craton, *Nuytsia*, **17**, 273–280.
- Mollema FH (1993) *Drummondita wilsonii*, *Philotheca langei* and *P. basistyla* (Rutaceae), new species from south-west Western Australia. *Nuytsia* **9**, 95–110.
- Paczkowska G, Chapman AR (2000) *The Western Australian Flora: A Descriptive Catalogue*. Wildflower Society of Western Australia, Western Australian Herbarium, CALM and Botanic Garden Authority.
- Rengasamy P, Churchman GJ (1999) Cation exchange capacity, exchangeable cations and sodicity. In: *Soil analysis: an interpretation manual*. (eds. KI Peverill, LA Sparrow and DJ Reuter) CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Victoria.
- Rogers, L.G. (1996) Geraldton Region Land Resources Survey. Land Resources Series 13, Department of Agriculture, South Perth, Western Australia.
- Shepherd KS, Rye BL, Meissner RA, West JG (2007) Two new Western Australian species of *Dodonaea* (Sapindaceae) from northern Yilgarn ironstones, *Nuytsia*, **17**, 375–384.
- Siegel S (1956) *Non-Parametric statistics for behavioural sciences*. McGraw-Hill, New York.
- Walton K, Allen D (2004) Mehlich No. 3 Soil Test – The Western Australian Experience. In: *SuperSoil 2004: Proceedings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian New Zealand Soils Conference, University of Sydney, Australia, 5–9 December 2004*. (ed B Singh) [www.regional.org.au/au/assi/supersoil2004](http://www.regional.org.au/au/assi/supersoil2004)
- Wheeler JR (2004) An interim key to the Western Australian species of *Hibbertia* (Dilleniaceae). *Nuytsia*, **15**, 311–320.
- Zar JH (1999) *Biostatistical Analysis. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Prentice-Hall, New Jersey.

Table 1

Sorted two-way table of quadrats established Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills showing species by community type. Taxa shaded grey within a community are indicator species identified by INDVAL > 17 (Dufrene & Legendre 1997) at the 6 group level (\* indicates P < 0.05; \*\* indicates P < 0.01; statistical significance tested by randomisation procedures).

	Community Types					
	1a	1b	2	3	4	5
<b>SPECIES GROUP A</b>						
<i>Acacia acanthoclada</i> subsp. <i>glaucescens</i>			• •			• •
** <i>Scaevola spinescens</i>	•			• • •		• • • • • •
* <i>Senna charlesiana</i>			•		•	• • •
<i>Acacia acuminata</i>	• • • • • • • •	•	• • • • •	• • • • •	• •	• • • • • •
* <i>Austrostipa trichophylla</i>	• • •		•	•	• • •	• • • • • •
<i>Austrostipa elegantissima</i>	• • • • • • • •	•	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • • •
** <i>Acacia andrewsii</i>	•		• • • • •		•	• • • • • •
** <i>Rhagodia drummondii</i>			• • • • •			• • • • • •
<i>Austrostipa scabra</i>			• • • • •	• • • • •	•	• • • • • •
<i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> var. <i>obovatus</i>	• •		• • • • •	• • • • •		• • • • • •
<i>Acacia anthochaera</i>	•		• • •			• • • • •
<i>Austrodanthonia</i> sp. Goomalling (A.G. Guinness et al. OAKP 10/63)	•			•		•
<b>SPECIES GROUP B</b>						
* <i>Bulbine semibarbata</i>			• •			
<i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i>	•		•			
<i>Maireana planifolia</i>			•			• • •
<i>Olearia humilis</i>	•		•	• •		•
<b>SPECIES GROUP C</b>						
<i>Acacia graciliformis</i>			•	•		• •
** <i>Acacia erinacea</i>			• •			• • • • •
<i>Maireana marginata</i>						• •
** <i>Austrodanthonia caespitosa</i>						• • • • •
<i>Sclerolaena fusiformis</i>						• •
** <i>Sclerolaena diacantha</i>						• • • • •
** <i>Maireana carnosae</i>						• • • • •
** <i>Maireana georgei</i>						• • • • •
* <i>Enchylaena lanata</i>						• • • • •
<i>Olearia muelleri</i>						• •
<i>Eucalyptus subangusta</i> subsp. <i>pusilla</i>			•			• •
<b>SPECIES GROUP D</b>						
<i>Acacia assimilis</i> subsp. <i>assimilis</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• •	• • • • •	• • • • •	
<i>Amphipogon caricinus</i> var. <i>caricinus</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• •	• • • • •	• • • • •	
* <i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• •	• •
<i>Arthropodium dyeri</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
* <i>Eucalyptus ebbanoensis</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• •	• • • • •
** <i>Grevillea paradoxa</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
* <i>Thysanotus manglesianus</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
<i>Astroloma serratifolium</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
** <i>Hibbertia</i> aff. <i>exasperata</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
<i>Dianella revoluta</i> var. <i>divaricata</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• •	•
* <i>Melaleuca nematophylla</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	•	
** <i>Acacia nigripilosa</i> subsp. <i>nigripilosa</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •		
<i>Dodonaea scurra</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •		•
** <i>Micromyrtus racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •		
<i>Aluta aspera</i> subsp. <i>hesperia</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• •	• •
<i>Stylidium confluens</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
* <i>Hibbertia arcuata</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
<i>Acacia coolgardiensis</i> subsp. <i>coolgardiensis</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
** <i>Melaleuca atroviridis</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
* <i>Melaleuca cordata</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
<i>Schoenus nanus</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
<i>Melaleuca eleuterostachya</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •
** <i>Stenanthemum poicilum</i>	• • • • • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •	• • • • •

Table 1 (cont.)

	1a	1b	2	3	4	5
<b>SPECIES GROUP E</b>						
<i>Acacia daviesioides</i>						
<i>Acacia muriculata</i>						
* <i>Drummondita rubroviridis</i>						
* <i>Mirbelia</i> sp. Helena & Aurora (B.J. Lepschi 2003)						
* <i>Acacia neurophylla</i> subsp. <i>erugata</i>						
* <i>Cheiranthra filifolia</i> var. <i>simplicifolia</i>						
<i>Westringia cephalantha</i>						
<i>Malleostemon tuberculatus</i>						
<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>						
<b>SPECIES GROUP F</b>						
** <i>Acacia exocarpoides</i>						
<i>Allocasuarina dielsiana</i>						
<i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>						
<i>Eremophila latrobei</i> subsp. <i>latrobei</i>						
<i>Solanum ellipticum</i>						
<i>Hakea recurva</i>						
<i>Persoonia pentasticha</i>						
<b>SPECIES GROUP G</b>						
** <i>Austrostipa hemipogon</i>						
** <i>Lepidosperma</i> sp. Koolanooka (K.Newbey 9336)						
* <i>Tricoryne elatior</i>						
** <i>Pimelea avonensis</i>						
<i>Baeckea</i> sp. Perenjori (J.W. Green 1516)						
<i>Comesperma integerrimum</i>						
<i>Xanthosia bungei</i>						
<i>Caesia</i> sp. Koolanooka Hills (R.Meissner & Y.Caruso 78)						
** <i>Calycopeplus paucifolius</i>						
<i>Melaleuca radula</i>						
<i>Chamaeoxeros macranthera</i>						
** <i>Dodonaea inaequifolia</i>						
** <i>Philotheca brucei</i> subsp. <i>brucei</i>						
<i>Eremophila clarkei</i>						
<i>Daviesia hakeoides</i> subsp. <i>hakeoides</i>						
<i>Dioscorea hastifolia</i>						
* <i>Mirbelia microphylla</i>						
<i>Sida atrovirens</i>						
<b>SPECIES GROUP H</b>						
* <i>Caesia</i> sp. Wheatbelt (AJM Hopkins 353)						
<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>supralaevis</i>						
<i>Melaleuca hamata</i>						
<b>SPECIES GROUP I</b>						
* <i>Acacia stereophylla</i> var. <i>stereophylla</i>						
<i>Thysanotus pyramidalis</i>						
* <i>Grevillea obliquistigma</i> subsp. <i>obliquistigma</i>						
<i>Alyxia buxifolia</i>						
<i>Arthropodium curvipes</i>						
<b>SPECIES GROUP J</b>						
** <i>Allocasuarina campestris</i>						
** <i>Drosera macrantha</i> subsp. <i>macrantha</i>						
** <i>Hemigenia</i> sp. Sticky Terete (B.H. Smith 449)						
* <i>Monachather paradoxus</i>						
<i>Melaleuca barlowii</i>						
* <i>Stypandra glauca</i>						

Table 2

Spearman's rank correlation of soil chemistry parameter and physical site characters. Cells with numbers present represent significant correlation at  $P < 0.05$ .

	eCEC	pH	B	Ca	Cd	Co	Cu	Fe	K	Mg	Mn	Mo	Na	Ni	P	Pb	S	Zn	Aspect	Slope	Disturbance	Surface Rock Abundance	Surface CF Size
eCEC																							
pH																							
B	0.20	0.41																					
Ca	0.99	0.58																					
Cd																							
Co	0.31	0.39			0.48																		
Cu					0.34	0.53																	
Fe	0.51			0.54																			
K	0.63	0.33		0.57	0.31	0.30	0.39																
Mg	0.90	0.60	0.31	0.85		0.34	0.31	0.45	0.58														
Mn	0.39	0.42		0.37	0.52	0.68	0.30			0.29													
Mo			0.57																				
Na	0.42		0.30	0.34			0.50		0.69	0.50													
Ni	0.74	0.41		0.71	0.41	0.47	0.30	0.45	0.52	0.71	0.51												
P							0.34		0.33				0.33	0.08									
Pb		-0.30			0.33		0.33							0.29									
S		-0.56												0.41		0.45							
Zn					0.41		0.52		0.47		0.31		0.40	0.35	0.51	0.29							
Aspect								0.30															
Slope								0.31	0.29					0.38			0.34	0.41					
Disturbance																							
Surface Rock Abundance							-0.37																
Surface CF Size								0.38				0.32				0.34			0.42				
Rock Outcrop Abundance								0.50											0.45				0.61
Runoff														0.31					0.73			0.41	0.29
%Litter					0.39	0.43	0.33	-0.39			0.35												
%Bare																-0.43							

Table 3

Plant community mean values for soil chemistry parameters (measured in mg/kg except eCEC and pH). Differences between ranked values tested using Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric analysis of variance. Standard error in parentheses. Parameters in bold indicate significance at  $P < 0.01$ . a, b and c represent significant differences between community types at  $P < 0.05$  ( $n$  = number of quadrats,  $P$  = probability, ns = not significant).

	1	2	Community Type			P
			3	4	5	
eCEC	4.7 (0.5)	4.9 (0.9)	4.3 (0.7)	2.6 (0.3)	5.5 (0.9)	ns
pH	<b>4.9 (0.0)<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>5.0 (0.1)<sup>ab</sup></b>	<b>4.8 (0.1)<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>4.7 (0.1)<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>5.3 (0.1)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>0.01</b>
P	<b>4.3 (0.2)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>7.2 (1.0)<sup>bc</sup></b>	<b>9.1 (1.5)<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>3.4 (0.4)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>7.0 (0.6)<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
Ca	636.7 (60.5)	660.0 (148.0)	565.5 (112.7)	336.0 (57.3)	658.9 (112.5)	ns
K	116.4 (6.3)	132.0 (17.4)	139.4 (13.2)	112.8 (11.9)	144.4 (9.9)	ns
Mg	<b>140.0 (20.3)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>144.0 (21.6)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>115.9 (17.4)<sup>ab</sup></b>	<b>69.8 (7.6)<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>199.7 (36.2)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
B	<b>0.6 (0.0)</b>	<b>0.7 (0.1)</b>	<b>0.8 (0.1)</b>	<b>0.5 (0.0)</b>	<b>0.9 (0.2)</b>	<b>0.05</b>
Cd	0.01 (0.00)	0.01 (0.00)	0.01 (0.00)	0.01 (0.00)	0.02 (0.01)	ns
Co	<b>0.4 (0.1)<sup>ab</sup></b>	<b>0.8 (0.3)<sup>ab</sup></b>	<b>0.3 (0.1)<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>0.2 (0.1)<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>0.8 (0.2)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
Cu	<b>1.7 (0.3)</b>	<b>3.2 (0.4)</b>	<b>1.6 (0.2)</b>	<b>1.3 (0.3)</b>	<b>2.8 (0.7)</b>	<b>0.01</b>
Fe	<b>77.3 (3.7)</b>	<b>73.2 (5.0)</b>	<b>69.5 (7.2)</b>	<b>53.6 (3.4)</b>	<b>66.9 (9.6)</b>	<b>0.04</b>
Mn	121.1 (17.1)	170.8 (40.0)	94.8 (16.7)	90.6 (29.1)	147.0 (27.8)	ns
Mo	<b>0.01 (0.00)</b>	<b>0.01(0.00)</b>	<b>0.01(0.00)</b>	<b>0.01(0.00)</b>	<b>0.01(0.00)</b>	<b>0.05</b>
Na	<b>20.3 (2.1)</b>	<b>28.4 (4.2)</b>	<b>40.6 (8.4)</b>	<b>16.0 (1.9)</b>	<b>47.1 (15.4)</b>	<b>0.03</b>
Ni	0.3 (0.1)	0.4 (0.1)	0.3 (0.0)	0.2 (0.0)	0.3 (0.0)	ns
Pb	1.4 (0.5)	1.7 (0.7)	1.7 (0.4)	5.9 (2.9)	1.7 (0.4)	ns
S	9.8 (0.8)	10.4 (1.0)	14.5 (2.4)	11.0 (2.2)	8.0 (1.1)	ns
Zn	2.3 (0.9)	2.4 (0.5)	2.2 (0.3)	2.3 (0.7)	2.9 (1.2)	ns
n	18	5	11	5	9	

Table 4

Plant community mean values for physical site parameters; aspect (16 cardinal directions), slope (degrees), coarse fragment (CF) abundance (0 – no coarse fragments to 6 very abundant coarse fragments), Maximum size of coarse fragments (CF) (1 – fine gravelly to 7 – large boulders), Morph type (landscape morphology; 1 – crest, 2 – midslope, 3 – simple slope, 4 – flat, 5 – lowerslope), rock outcrop (RO) abundance (0 – no bedrock exposed to 5 – rockland), runoff (0 – no runoff to 5 – very rapid), % leaf litter and bare ground (1 – >70% to 4 – <10%). Differences between ranks tested using Kruskal–Wallis non-parametric analysis of variance. Standard error in parentheses. Parameters in bold indicate significance, a and b represent significant differences between community types at  $P < 0.05$  ( $n$  = number of quadrats,  $P$  = probability, ns = not significant).

	1	2	Community Type			P
			3	4	5	
Aspect	5.4 (1.1)	6.4 (2.1)	6.5 (1.7)	9.0 (2.7)	8.2 (2.0)	ns
Slope	5.0 (1.1)	1.2 (2.5)	9.4 (2.4)	17.0 (4.1)	6.6 (1.8)	ns
CF Abundance	<b>3.6 (0.3)<sup>ab</sup></b>	<b>4.2 (0.4)<sup>ab</sup></b>	<b>3.8 (0.4)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>4.4 (0.2)<sup>ab</sup></b>	<b>2.6 (0.5)<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>0.01</b>
CF Max. Size	<b>3.8 (0.4)<sup>ab</sup></b>	<b>3.6 (1.1)<sup>ab</sup></b>	<b>4.2 (0.6)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>5.0 (0.3)<sup>ab</sup></b>	<b>3.4 (0.5)<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>0.02</b>
MorphType	<b>2.2(0.31)<sup>ab</sup></b>	<b>1.8 (0.6)<sup>ab</sup></b>	<b>1.5 (0.2)<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>4.4 (0.6)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>2.9 (0.4)<sup>ab</sup></b>	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
RO Abundance	<b>1.0 (0.3)</b>	<b>2.4 (0.9)</b>	<b>1.5 (0.6)</b>	<b>1.6 (0.7)</b>	<b>0.4 (0.3)</b>	<b>0.01</b>
Runoff	1.4 (0.2)	2.0 (0.3)	1.5 (0.3)	2.6 (0.4)	1.6 (0.3)	ns
%Leaf Litter	<b>2.3 (0.3)</b>	<b>2.6 (0.4)</b>	<b>3.0 (0.2)</b>	<b>3.0 (0.3)</b>	<b>3.1 (0.3)</b>	<b>0.05</b>
% Bare Ground	<b>1.6 (0.2)</b>	<b>1.0 (0.0)</b>	<b>1.4 (0.2)</b>	<b>1.6 (0.6)</b>	<b>1.1 (0.1)</b>	<b>0.02</b>
n=	18	5	11	5	0	

## APPENDIX 1

Flora list for Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills, including all taxa from the sampling quadrats and adjacent areas. Nomenclature follows Paczkowska and Chapman (2000), \* indicates introduced taxon.

**Adiantaceae**

*Cheilanthes adiantoides*

**Aizoaceae**

\* *Cleretum papulosum*

*Gunniopsis rubra*

\* *Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum*

**Amaranthaceae**

*Ptilotus drummondii*

*Ptilotus exaltatus* var. *exaltatus*

*Ptilotus gaudichaudii* var. *gaudichaudii*

*Ptilotus gaudichaudii* var. *parviflorus*

*Ptilotus grandiflorus* var. *grandiflorus*

*Ptilotus holosericeus*

*Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus*

*Ptilotus polystachyus* var. *polystachyus*

**Anthericaceae**

*Arthropodium curvipes*

*Arthropodium dyeri*

*Caesia* sp. Koolanooka Hills (R.Meissner and Y. Caruso 78)

*Thysanotus manglesianus*

*Thysanotus pyramidalis*

*Tricoryne elatior*

**Apiaceae**

*Daucus glochidiatus*

*Platysace cirrosa*

*Trachymene cyanopetala*

*Trachymene ornata*

*Trachymene pilosa*

*Xanthosia bungei*

**Apocynaceae**

*Alyxia buxifolia*

**Asphodelaceae**

*Bulbine semibarbata*

**Asteraceae**

*Actinobole uliginosum*

\* *Arctotheca calendula*

*Bellida graminea*

*Blennospora drummondii*

*Brachyscome ciliocarpa*

*Brachyscome perpusilla*

*Calocephalus multiflorus*

*Calotis hispidula*

*Calotis multicaulis*

*Cephalopterum drummondii*

*Ceratogyne obionoides*

*Erymophyllum ramosum* subsp. *ramosum*

*Gilberta tenuifolia*

*Gilruthia osbornei*

*Hyalosperma demissum*

*Hyalosperma glutinosum* subsp. *glutinosum*

\* *Hypochaeris glabra*

*Lawrencella davenportii*

*Lawrencella rosea*

*Millotia dimorpha*

*Millotia myosotidifolia*

*Myriocephalus guerinae*

*Olearia dampieri* subsp. *eremicola*

*Olearia humilis*

*Olearia muelleri*

*Podolepis canescens*

*Podolepis lessonii*

*Podotheca gnaphalioides*

*Rhodanthe battii*

*Rhodanthe chlorocephala* subsp. *rosea*

*Rhodanthe collina*

*Rhodanthe laevis*

*Rhodanthe maryonii*

*Rhodanthe polycephala*

*Schoenia cassiniana*

*Senecio pinnatifolius* var. *pinnatifolius*

\* *Sonchus oleraceus*

\* *Urospermum picroides*

*Waitzia acuminata* var. *acuminata*

**Brassicaceae**

\* *Brassica tournefortii*

*Lepidium oxytrichum*

\* *Sisymbrium erysimoides*

*Stenopetalum filifolium*

*Stenopetalum lineare*

*Stenopetalum salicola*

**Caesalpiniaceae**

*Labichea lanceolata* subsp. *brevifolia*

*Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*

*Senna charlesiana*

*Senna* sp. Austin (A. Strid 20210)

**Campanulaceae**

*Wahlenbergia gracilentia*

*Wahlenbergia tumidifructa*

**Caryophyllaceae**

\* *Petrorhagia dubia*

\* *Silene nocturna*

*Spergularia* sp.

**Casuarinaceae**

*Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *acutivalvis*

*Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *prinsepiana*

*Allocasuarina campestris*

*Allocasuarina dielsiana*

**Chenopodiaceae**

*Enchylaena lanata*  
*Maireana carnosae*  
*Maireana georgei*  
*Maireana marginata*  
*Maireana planifolia*  
*Maireana planifolia* x *villosa*  
*Maireana thesioides*  
*Rhagodia drummondii*  
*Rhagodia preissii* subsp. *preissii*  
*Sclerolaena diacantha*  
*Sclerolaena fusiformis*  
*Sclerolaena* sp. Koolanooka Hills (R. Meissner & Y. Caruso 437)

**Crassulaceae**

*Crassula closiana*  
*Crassula colorata* var. *acuminata*  
*Crassula colorata* var. *colorata*  
*Crassula tetramera*

**Cuscutaceae**

\* *Cuscuta epithymum*

**Cyperaceae**

*Lepidosperma* sp. Koolanooka (Newbey 9336)  
*Schoenus nanus*  
*Tetraria* aff. *capillaris* (R.Meissner & Y.Caruso 51)

**Dasypogonaceae**

*Chamaexeros macranthera*

**Dilleniaceae**

*Hibbertia* aff. *exasperata* (R.Meissner & Y.Caruso 56)  
*Hibbertia arcuata*

**Dioscoreaceae**

*Dioscorea hastifolia*

**Droseraceae**

*Drosera macrantha* subsp. *macrantha*

**Epacridaceae**

*Astroloma serratifolium*

**Euphorbiaceae**

*Calycoplepus paucifolius*  
*Euphorbia boophthoona*  
*Poranthera microphylla*  
*Ricinocarpos muricatus*

**Geraniaceae**

*Erodium cygnorum*

**Goodeniaceae**

*Brunonia australis*  
*Goodenia berardiana*  
*Goodenia mimuloides*  
*Goodenia occidentalis*  
*Goodenia pinnatifida*

*Scaevola spinescens*  
*Velleia cynopotamica*  
*Velleia hispida*  
*Velleia rosea*

**Haloragaceae**

*Gonocarpus nodulosus*  
*Haloragis trigonocarpa*

**Lamiaceae**

*Hemigenia* sp. Sticky Terete (B.H. Smith 449)  
*Westringia cephalantha*

**Lauraceae**

*Cassytha nodiflora*

**Lobeliaceae**

*Lobelia winfridae*

**Loganiaceae**

*Phyllangium sulcatum*

**Malvaceae**

*Sida atrovirens*

**Mimosaceae**

*Acacia acanthoclada* subsp. *glaucescens*  
*Acacia acuminata*  
*Acacia acuminata* (narrow phyllode variant)  
*Acacia andrewsii*  
*Acacia anthochaera*  
*Acacia assimilis* subsp. *assimilis*  
*Acacia* cf. *coolgardiensis*  
*Acacia coolgardiensis* subsp. *coolgardiensis*  
*Acacia daviesioides*  
*Acacia erinacea*  
*Acacia exocarpoides*  
*Acacia graciliformis*  
*Acacia lineolata* subsp. *lineolata*  
*Acacia muriculata*  
*Acacia neurophylla* subsp. *erugata*  
*Acacia nigripilosa* subsp. *nigripilosa*  
*Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa*  
*Acacia stereophylla* var. *stereophylla*  
*Acacia tetragonophylla*

**Myoporaceae**

*Eremophila clarkei*  
*Eremophila deserti*  
*Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei*  
*Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *oldfieldii*  
*Eremophila oppositifolia* subsp. *angustifolia*

**Myrtaceae**

*Aluta aspera* subsp. *hesperia*  
*Baeckea* sp. Perenjori (J.W. Green 1516)  
*Calothamnus gilesii*  
*Chamelaucium micranthum*  
*Eucalyptus ebbanoensis* subsp. *ebbanoensis*  
*Eucalyptus ebbanoensis* subsp. *glauciramula*

*Eucalyptus subangusta* subsp. *pusilla*  
*Eucalyptus kochii* subsp. *borealis*  
*Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *supralaevis*  
*Eucalyptus wubinensis*  
*Eucalyptus oldfieldii*  
*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*  
*Malleostemon tuberculatus*  
*Melaleuca atroviridis*  
*Melaleuca barlowii*  
*Melaleuca cordata*  
*Melaleuca eleuterostachya*  
*Melaleuca hamata*  
*Melaleuca nematophylla*  
*Melaleuca radula*  
*Micromyrtus racemosa* var. *racemosa*

### Orchidaceae

*Diuris porrifolia*

### Papilionaceae

*Daviesia benthamii* subsp. *benthamii*  
*Daviesia hakeoides* subsp. *hakeoides*  
*Mirbelia microphylla*  
*Mirbelia* sp. Helena & Aurora (B.J. Lepschi 2003)

### Phormiaceae

*Dianella revoluta* var. *divaricata*  
*Stypanandra glauca*

### Pittosporaceae

*Cheiranthera filifolia* var. *simplicifolia*

### Plantaginaceae

*Plantago* aff. *hispida* (R.Meissner & Y.Caruso 512)

### Poaceae

*Amphipogon caricinus* var. *caricinus*  
*Aristida contorta*  
*Austrodanthonia caespitosa*  
*Austrodanthonia* sp. Goomalling (A.G. Gunness et al. OAKP 10/63)  
*Austrostipa elegantissima*  
*Austrostipa eremophila*  
*Austrostipa hemipogon*  
*Austrostipa scabra*  
*Austrostipa trichophylla*  
 \* *Avena fatua*  
 \* *Bromus madritensis*  
 \* *Bromus rubens*  
 \* *Ehrharta longiflora*  
 \* *Lamarckia aurea*  
 \* *Lolium perenne* x *rigidum*  
*Monachather paradoxus*  
 \* *Pentaschistis airoides* subsp. *airoides*  
 \* *Rostraria pumila*  
 \* *Elymus* sp.  
 \* *Vulpia muralis*  
 \* *Vulpia myuros*

### Polygalaceae

*Comesperma integerrimum*

### Polygonaceae

\* *Acetosa vesicaria*

### Portulacaceae

*Calandrinia* aff. *eremaea* (R.Meissner & Y.Caruso 533)  
*Calandrinia calyptrata*  
*Calandrinia eremaea* complex  
*Calandrinia* sp. Blackberry (D.M. Porter 171)  
*Calandrinia* sp. Bungalbin (G.J. Keighery & N. Gibson 1656)

### Proteaceae

*Grevillea levis*  
*Grevillea obliquistigma* subsp. *obliquistigma*  
*Grevillea paradoxa*  
*Hakea minyma*  
*Hakea recurva*  
*Persoonia pentasticha*

### Rhamnaceae

*Stenanthemum poicilum*

### Rutaceae

*Drummondita rubroviridis*  
*Phebalium tuberosum*  
*Philotheca brucei* subsp. *brucei*

### Santalaceae

*Santalum acuminatum*

### Sapindaceae

*Dodonaea adenophora*  
*Dodonaea inaequifolia*  
*Dodonaea scurra*

### Solanaceae

*Nicotiana rosulata* subsp. *rosulata*  
*Solanum ellipticum*  
*Solanum* sp.

### Stylidiaceae

*Levenhookia stipitata*  
*Stylidium confluens*

### Thymelaeaceae

*Pimelea avonensis*

### Urticaceae

*Parietaria cardiostegia*

### Zygophyllaceae

*Zygophyllum apiculatum*  
*Zygophyllum eremacum*