

Plant of the Month — October 2014

Ptilotus clivicolus



Ptilotus clivicolus is a rare species of Mulla Mulla currently listed under the [Priority 2](#) phrase name [Ptilotus sp. Eneabba \(K. Kershaw & D. Leach 07-02-01\)](#). The new species is rhizomatous producing single scattered arching branches and is only known from two populations from the sandplains near Eneabba and Mount Lesueur National Park.

The name *clivicolus* is derived from the Latin, slope inhabiting, referring to the gentle slopes from where the new species is found.

The plant was described by R. Davis, T. Hammer and K.R. Thiele [in our journal Nuytsia](#). A study in preparation on the molecular phylogeny of *Ptilotus* carried out by Tim Hammer has shown *Ptilotus clivicolus* is closely related to the other new species *Ptilotus falcatus*, described alongside *P. clivicolus*. The

molecular results had showed that they were almost molecularly identical yet are clearly morphologically distinct from each other.

Photo: R. Davis

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