



Asterolasia muricata

Rough Star-bush

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	R	V	State	Perennial

Family RUTACEAE



Photo: © Tony Robinson

Conservation Significance

Endemic to SA.³ The AMLR distribution is disjunct, isolated from other extant occurrences within SA. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'. Relative to all AMLR extant species, the species' taxonomic uniqueness is classified as 'Very High'.⁵

State-listed as Rare due to its localised distribution and scattered occurrence throughout its range.¹

Description

Small slender shrub to 1 m high with rough leaves and bright yellow flowers.^{3,7}

Distribution and Population

Confined to Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island.⁷

Pre- and post-1983 AMLR filtered records in and around Newland Head on southern Fleurieu Peninsula.⁵ In 1992 the population in Newland Head was over 100 plants.^{2,6} Also known from Santa Cruz Scrub, Waitpinga.⁶

Habitat

In Newland Head recorded on sandy hillsides and above coastal cliffs, in sandy loam over heavy yellow clay, growing with *Eucalyptus diversifolia*, *E. baxteri*, *Xanthorrhoea sp.*, *Hakea sp.*, *Allocasuarina pusilla*, *Hibbertia sericea*, *Correa reflexa*, *Dillwynia sericea*, *Pultenaea trinervi*, *Calytrix tetragonal* and *Calytrix*

glaberrima.^{2,6}

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Heathy Woodland and Shrubland.⁵

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'Moderate-Low'.⁵

Biology and Ecology

Flowers between August and November.³

May require disturbance to stimulate recruitment.⁴

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in southern Ngarrindjeri Nation.⁵

Threats

At Newland CP cliff collections are very close to the Heysen Trail. Specimens are spindly and unlikely to draw attention other than from a trained botanist. The plants in the northern damp swale are more robust and are largely away from public areas. There are however some changes occurring in this vicinity due to clay delving on an adjacent farm. This may result in reduced summer runoff into the park due to increased water retention. The plants on the old eastern boundary are quite wispy and very scattered. There is a lack of recruitment in all sub-populations (R. Taylor *pers. comm.*).

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

Further information:

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region

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<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014





ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.⁵ Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

7 Robinson, A. C. and Armstrong, D. M., eds. (1999). *A Biological Survey of Kangaroo Island, South Australia, 1989 & 1990*. Heritage and Biodiversity Section, Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs, South Australia.

References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

1 Davies, R. J.-P. (1986). *Threatened Plant Species of the Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island Regions of South Australia*. Conservation Council of South Australia Inc., Adelaide.

2 Davies, R. J.-P. (1992). *Threatened Plant Species of the Murray Mallee, Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island Regions of South Australia*. Conservation Council of South Australia Inc., Adelaide.

3 Department for Environment and Heritage *Electronic Flora of South Australia species Fact Sheet: Asterolasia muricata J. M. Black*. Available from <http://www.flora.sa.gov.au/> (accessed August 2007).

4 Department for Environment and Heritage. (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Expert Flora Workshop, Unpublished Notes*. Participants: Bickerton, D., Croft, T., Jury, T., Lang, P., Prescott, A., Quarmby, J. and Smith, K., Adelaide.

5 Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.

6 Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *State Herbarium of South Australia Database*. Unpublished data, extracted October 2007.

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