



PLANT

Eucalyptus phenax* ssp. *compressa

Kangaroo Island Mallee

| AUS | SA | AMLR | Endemism | Life History |
|-----|----|------|----------|--------------|
| - | R | V | State | Perennial |

Family MYRTACEAE



Photo: © Ron Taylor

Conservation Significance

This subspecies of *Eucalyptus phenax* is endemic to SA, and is related to *E. phenax* and *E. conglobata*.^{1,5} 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'.³

Description

Mallee, often of erect form, 3 to 8 m tall. Bark usually smooth, light grey to tan and ribbony. Adult leaves are glossy and green. Buds and fruits are in umbels of seven. Flowers are white, seeds glossy and red-brown.^{1,5} This subspecies differs from *Eucalyptus phenax* ssp. *phenax* in the broader, thicker adult leaves, longer peduncles and the broader, more crowded buds and fruits.⁵

Distribution and Population

Eucalyptus phenax species are widespread in mallee bushland of southern Australia, from WA to VIC. In SA occurs in EP and KI regions.¹

E. phenax ssp. *compressa* occurs sporadically on north-eastern KI and southern Fleurieu Peninsula (near Waitpinga), intergrading with ssp. *phenax* north and east of Goolwa.^{1,5}

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records restricted to southern Fleurieu Peninsula between Tunkalilla, Inman Valley and Waitpinga.³

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records indicate that it may have been distributed more widely on southern Fleurieu Peninsula, with records from near Mount Compass, Fisheries Beach and Newland Head.³

Habitat

Grows in mallee bushland usually on flat terrain with sandy or loam soils, although near Waitpinga it grows in hilly terrain in gravelly clay. Commonly associated species include *Eucalyptus cneorifolia*, *E. odorata*, *E. rugosa* and *E. cosmophylla*.⁵

Recorded AMLR habitats include:

- Waitpinga cliff-top: both intact and degraded coastal heath and open-scrub
- Newland Head to Waitpinga cliff-top: *Eucalyptus diversifolia*, *E. cosmophylla* mallee scrub on sandy soil
- Finniss area: roadside vegetation, *Eucalyptus leucoxylon*, *E. odorata* woodland; with *E. fasciculosa*, *E. cosmophylla* and *E. baxteri*
- Parawa area: in gravelly, sandy clay with *Eucalyptus leptophylla*, *E. cosmophylla*, *E. obliqua*, *Gonocarpus mezianus*, *Cassinia complanata*, *Lomandra multiflora* ssp. *dura* and *Lomandra micrantha*
- Waitpinga: in depression of heavy clay loam, which can be under water in winter, together with *Eucalyptus fasciculosa*, *E. leptophylla*, *E. calycogona*. Also on cliff top near plateau edge with *Eucalyptus fasciculosa*, *E. diversifolia*, *E. calycogona*, *Melaleuca lanceolata* and *Poa poliformis*.⁴

Within the AMLR preferred broad vegetation group is Mallee.³

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'High'.³

Biology and Ecology

Flowering period is not known.¹

Plants are relatively quick growing, and may be useful for broadscale planting such as along roadsides.⁵

Further information:

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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



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ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA Threatened Species Profile

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

Aboriginal Significance

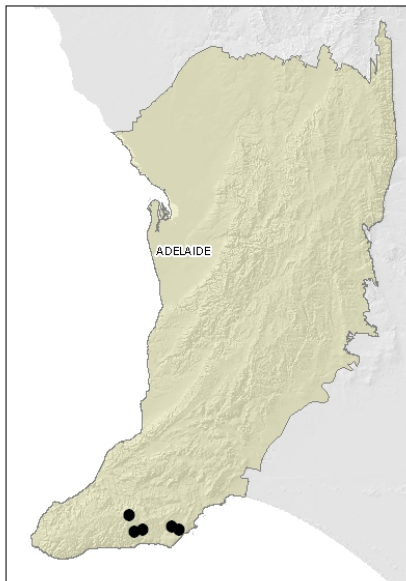
Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in southern Ngarrindjeri Nation.³

Threats

Presumed threats include grazing, inadequate recruitment, vegetation clearance (including roadside maintenance) and fire wood removal.²

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

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.³ Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

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 Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research (2006). *EUCLID Eucalypts of Australia, Third Edition*. CSIRO. Canberra ACT.

2 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.

3 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.

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