



PLANT

Maireana decalvans

Black Cotton-bush

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	E	E	-	Perennial

Family *CHENOPODIACEAE*



Photo: © Ron Taylor

Conservation Significance

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

Tufted to bushy shrub to 1 m high. Branches slender; leaves tiny, club-shaped, often blue-green, succulent. Fruit with five papery, fan-shaped wings, white or white pink tinge.^{1,5}

Distribution and Population

Also occurs in QLD, NSW and VIC. In SA, occurs in SL, NL and MU regions.¹

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records limited to isolated coastal and near coastal urban locations near Virginia, Adelaide Airport, Marino and Port Noarlunga.³

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records indicate a similar distribution with additional single records near Glenelg and Marion.³

Habitat

Found on heavy seasonally waterlogged soils.¹

At Port Noarlunga estuary found with *Nitraria billardierei* (Nitre-bush), +/- *Maireana oppositifolia* (Salt Bluebush), +/- *Sarcocornia* spp. (Samphire), +/- *Halosarcia* spp. (Samphire), +/- *Atriplex paludosa* (Marsh Saltbush).⁶ Soils are grey clays, and sands with high salt content.⁶

At Adelaide Airport occurs with *Maireana brevifolia* and numerous weed species. From Kingston Park to Marino cliff line occurs with *Plantago lanceolata*, *Lactuca serriola*, *Maireana brevifolia* and *Enchylaena tomentosa*.⁴

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation group is Coastal.³

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

Biology and Ecology

Flowers and/or fruits from November to May.¹

Aboriginal Significance

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

Threats

Threats include weed competition, inadequate recruitment, urban development and human impacts (e.g. site disturbance and recreational activities) and lack of formal protection.²

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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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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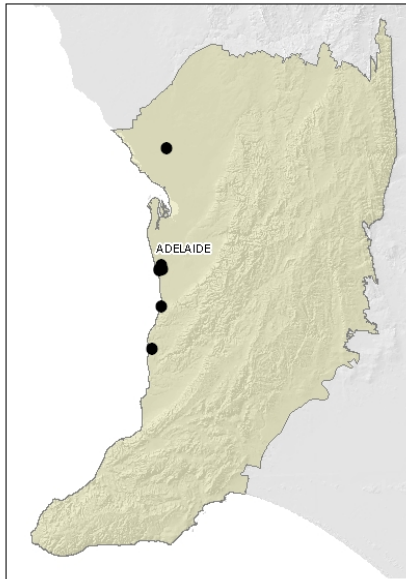


ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

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 Department for Environment and Heritage *Electronic Flora of South Australia species Fact Sheet: Maireana decalvans (Gand.)Paul G.Wilson*. Available from <http://www.flora.sa.gov.au> (accessed September 2007).

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.

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

5 Prescott, A. (1988). *It's Blue with Five Petals*. Ann Prescott, Adelaide, South Australia.

6 SA Urban Forest Biodiversity Program (2007). *Forests And Woodlands of the Adelaide Plains in 1836*. Available from <http://www.urbanforest.on.net> (accessed September 2007).

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