



PLANT

Spyridium coactilifolium

Butterfly Spyridium

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
V	V	V	AMLR	Perennial

Family RHAMNACEAE



Photo: © Ron Taylor

Conservation Significance

Endemic to the AMLR where the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Very Restricted'. Relative to all AMLR extant species, the species' taxonomic uniqueness is classified as 'High'.³

There has been a taxonomic revision of this species, with part of the population becoming *Spyridium halmaturinum* ssp. *halmaturinum*. As such the species is now a Southern Lofty endemic (T. Croft *pers. comm.*). The *Spyridium coactilifolium* record from west of Yorke Peninsula, held in Herbarium VIC, and records on Kangaroo Island are considered to be incorrect (B. Barker *pers. comm.*).

Description

Perennial shrub, growing to 1.5 metres high (T. Croft *pers. comm.*). Rusty branches, leaves rounded at the base. Flowers funnel shaped (3 mm long), in densely compact, compound heads surrounded by white-velvety floral leaves.²

Distribution and Population

In 1986 the two largest populations, totalling an estimated 100,000 individuals, occurred in Waitpinga Scrub and Parsons Beach Scrub. A third population of approximately 1000 individuals occurred NW of Ridgeway Hill. The three populations were healthy and in relatively unmodified native vegetation (Davies 1986).⁵

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records indicate a restricted coastal distribution between Waitpinga and Port Elliot.³

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records indicate a similar distribution with additional historic records further inland, and isolated occurrences from Mount Compass, Inman Valley and Tunkalilla.³

Habitat

Most frequently occurs on the tops of rocky sea cliffs, but may also be found further inland on gentle to moderately steep, SE-SW facing slopes on ridges (Davies 1986).⁵

Within the AMLR recorded habitat includes:

- Newland Head CP: on red/brown loam over calcrete with *Thomasia petalocalyx*, *Acacia sophorae*, *Leucopogon parviflorus* and *Billardiera cymosa*; in sub-storey heath with *Eucalyptus diversifolia*, *E. incrassata*, *Hibbertia riparia*, *Dillwynia sericea*; and in *Eucalyptus diversifolia* Low Mallee over *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* ssp. *tateana*, *Hakea rostrata*, *Banksia ornata*, *Daviesia ulicifolia* ssp. *incarnata* and *Hypolaena fastigiata*
- Waitpinga/Victor Harbor area: on white sand over lateritic soils in *Eucalyptus baxteri* with *E. cosmophylla* mallee closed woodland over *Banksia marginata*, *Hakea rostrata* and *Hibbertia* spp.⁴

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Coastal, Heathy Woodland and Shrubland.³

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'Moderate-Low'.³

Biology and Ecology

Flowers mainly from December to February although flowering has been recorded in all months (Davies 1986; Jessup and Toelken 1986).^{2,5}

Aboriginal Significance

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

Threats

Threats include competition from exotic plant species (e.g. Bridal Creeper); grazing by Rabbits, Kangaroos and livestock; and human impacts such as residential development at sites near urban centres.¹

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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Within the AMLR, less than a third of known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected *Phytophthora* infestations.³ Most populations are found in low risk management zone, with some in moderate risk management zone.⁶

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 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 Department for Environment and Heritage *Electronic Flora of South Australia species Fact Sheet: Spyridium coactilifolium* Reesek. Available from <http://www.flora.sa.gov.au> (accessed July 2007).

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 Department of the Environment and Water Resources (2007). *Spyridium coactilifolium in Species Profile and Threats Database*. Department of the Environment and Water Resources, Canberra. Available from <http://www.environment.gov.au/sprat> (accessed June 2007).

6 Velzeboer, R., Stubbs, W., West, A. and Bond, A. (2005). *Threatened plant species at risk from Phytophthora in South Australia*. South Australian Department for Environment and Heritage.

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