



Viola betonicifolia ssp. *betonicifolia*

Showy Violet

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
-	E	E	-	Perennial

Family VIOLACEAE



Photo: © Peter Lang

Conservation Significance

In SA, the majority of the distribution is confined within the AMLR, disjunct from the remaining extant distribution in other States. 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 'High'.⁶

Description

Small herb with short erect stems, to ankle high. Grows as single plants. Leaves oblong or lance-shape. Petals purple.^{4,9}

Distribution and Population

Also occurs in NSW, VIC, TAS and ACT. In SA only occurs in SL region with historical records also in the SE region.^{1,3}

Previously thought to be extinct in SA but was recently rediscovered in Mount Bold Reservoir (D. Duval *pers. comm.*). Exists in small patches of up to 100 plants.⁸

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records indicate it once had a wider distribution, occurring near Kangarilla, Woodside, Nairne, Meadows, and south of Gumeracha.⁶

Habitat

Occurs in a variety of habitats, including woodland, forest, healthland, shrubland and herbfields.^{2,11}

At Mount Bold, recorded growing in damp grassy *Eucalyptus obliqua* +/- *E. viminalis* woodland and lower south facing slopes in a shallow gully, with *Eucalyptus viminalis*, *E. obliqua*, *Ranunculus lappaceus*, *Ajuga australis* and *Scaevola albida* (T. Jury *pers. comm.*).⁸

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Heathy Woodland and Grassy Woodland.⁶

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'Moderate-Low'.⁶

Biology and Ecology

Flowers from September to January.^{4,9}

Provides ground cover for butterflies and is a known food plant of the butterfly *Argyreus hyperbius inconstans* (which does not occur in SA).¹⁰

Recorded as having a robust fire response, unlikely to be affected by repeated fires.⁷

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in southern Peramangk Nation.⁶

Threats

Threats include:

- weed competition: populations are currently under threat from Montpellier Broom (*Genista monspessulanus*) (D. Duval *pers. comm.*)
- inappropriate site management: e.g. off-target damage from herbicide spraying of watercourses is a potential threat
- habitat destruction: may be affected by the proposed increase in the capacity of Mount Bold Reservoir (D. Duval *pers. comm.*)⁵

Very limited within the AMLR region, however the majority of known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected *Phytophthora* infestations.⁶

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





ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.⁶ 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).

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