



Monarto mintbush *Prostanthera eurybioides*

Endangered



Close-up of Monarto mintbush in flower Photo: M. Jusaitis

Have You Seen This Plant?

Location

Monarto mintbush is endemic to South Australia and is only known from the Monarto area near Murray Bridge and the Mount Monster area near Keith.

Conservation rating

Monarto mintbush is rated as endangered under Commonwealth legislation.

Recovery

To ensure that this plant does not become extinct a recovery program is being implemented by the Department for Environment and Heritage and the Threatened Plant Action Group.

Information on new locations of this plant would greatly help the recovery project.

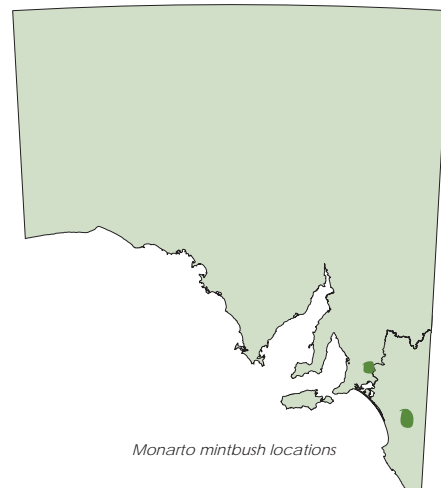
What does it look like?

- low, spreading shrub, up to 1m high
- leaves oval shaped in clusters
- smallest branches hairy
- leaves smell strongly when crushed
- pale purple and 'tube shaped' flowers with brown or orange spots on the inside
- flowers in spring from August to November
- member of the Labiatae (mint) family

Where does it occur?

Within the two isolated locations, Monarto mintbush occurs on roadsides, on private land, in Heritage Agreement areas and in Mount Monster Conservation Park.

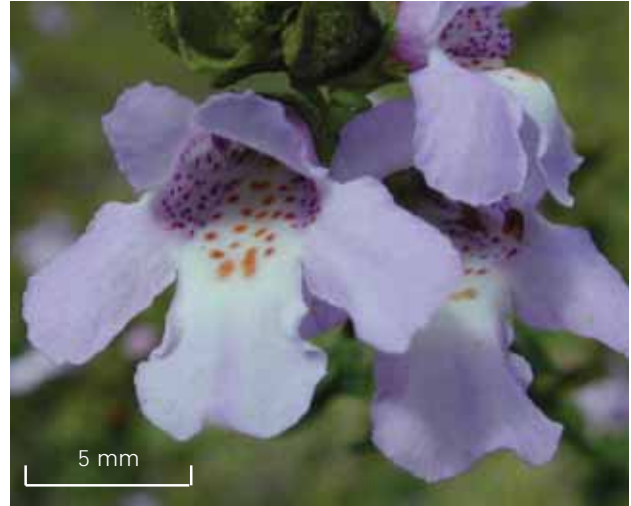
It is often found amongst granite outcrops on sandy loam soils, with broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*), wattles (*Acacia* spp.) and Mallee (*Eucalyptus* spp.)



Monarto mintbush locations



Monarto mintbush growing in broombush scrub. Photo: K.Smith



Monarto mintbush in flower Photo: M. Jusaitis

Threats

Species that are 'endangered' are often living in less than ideal situations, where various processes threaten their ability to survive and reproduce.

Serious threats to these plants include:



small population size



habitat fragmentation



lack of new plants



rabbit grazing



stock grazing



kangaroo grazing



competition from weeds



disturbance



changed fire patterns

Recovery

Key to actions: ■ completed ■ ongoing

Short-term aim: to manage immediate threats.

Actions:

- Fence isolated plants
- Weed control around existing populations
- Collect seed for long term storage

Medium-term aim: to restore and maintain populations and habitat.

Actions:

- Rabbit proof fence for a Monarto site
- Fence groups of plants with stockproof fencing
- Search for further populations
- Rabbit control
- Weed control
- Studying effects of fire, and soil disturbance on regeneration

- Propagation and planting seedlings in existing populations (seedlings should be planted at the site that seed was sourced from)
- Monitoring growth and survival
- Maintain seed in long term storage

Long-term aim: to increase the number of populations.

Actions:

- Maintain grazing and weed control

How you can help

Helping to save threatened species is something that everyone can become involved in.

- Report any new sightings of Monarto mintbush to the contacts listed on this page.
- Protect any native plants and habitat on your property from grazing, clearance and weeds.
- Join Threatened Plant Action Group or your local Landcare, Bushcare or Friends of Parks group.
- Control weeds and feral animals using minimum disturbance methods.

Further reading

A national recovery plan is currently being prepared for this species which will be available on the Commonwealth DEH website.

Jusaitis M and Smith K (1991) Draft recovery plan, *Prostanthera eurybioides*. Conservation Biology Unit Plant Biodiversity Centre, Adelaide

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.

Contact

Threatened Plant Action Group
(Threatened Species Network)
120 Wakefield Street Adelaide SA 5000

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