Pterostylis arenicola

Family ORCHIDACEAE

Distribution and Population
Herbarium records indicate it has been collected from Adelaide at the Grange Golf Club and West Lakes, and from between Tailem Bend and Wellington (Murray Mallee region). Also recorded south-east of Langhorne Creek and near the lower Murray and Murray Lakes (MU, SL and SE regions).

Pre- and Post-1983 AMLR filtered records indicate a single record in the Adelaide suburb of Grange.

The Grange Golf Club sub-population consists of about 100 individuals (Jusaitis and Sorensen 1994b).

Habitat
Restricted to coloured sand dunes under Callitris gracilis low woodland. This habitat type was always restricted but is now reduced to a few small pockets. Also observed under Melaleuca uncinata near Langhorne Creek and occurs on limestone elsewhere.

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Grassy Woodland, Shrubland and Mallee.

Biology and Ecology
Flowers late September to early October. Leaves senesce prior to flowering and flowers are pollinated by fungus gnats (Mycetophilids). Geophyte, arising annually from an underground tuber. Does not reproduce vegetatively.

Deciduous after fruiting with underground tuberoids continuing the life-cycle after an annual period of dormancy (Bates and Weber 1990). New stem produced from the apical bud within the tuberoid over the winter months. New stems produced from the apical bud within the tuberoid over the winter months (R. Bates pers. comm. cited in Davies 1992; Jones 1988).

Propagation requirements (in vitro and in situ) have been investigated (Jusaitis and Sorensen 1994).

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

Orchidaceae species are recorded as being a traditional food source for Aboriginal people in NSW. The tubers were roasted (Flood 1980).
Threats

Threats to all known populations include:

- weed invasion: e.g. Bridal Creeper, Perennial Veldt Grass, Soursob, annual grasses, Salvation Jane and Onion Weed
- Rabbits: browsing and digging and resultant soil disturbance
- human impacts: trampling, reserve maintenance activities and illegal collecting (West Lakes population)
- inappropriate fire regimes
- lack of formal protection.

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. 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).


Further information:

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