



September 2011

NRM Plan

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Osborn's Eyebright (*Euphrasia collina* ssp. *osbornii*)

FAMILY: SCROPHULARIACEAE

Description

Osborn's Eyebright is a medium size and short-lived perennial herb to 80cm high (often 40-50cm). It branches from above the ground with conspicuous, showy flowers during late-winter and spring. The leaves are opposite along the stem and have toothed margins (usually with 3-6 pairs of teeth) and sparse hairs. The flowers grow at the top of the stem with multiple flowers creating a pyramid-shape. The flowers are white to pink or lavender and are paler on the inside of the petal. Each flower has a short tube before spreading with 2 lobes above and 3 below.

There are a number of closely related sub-species of *Euphrasia collina*, including Coast Eyebright (sub-species *tetragona*) which is also recorded in the Northern and Yorke Region, but differs mainly in its leaves with only 1, 2 or rarely 4 pairs of teeth.



Distribution and Habitat

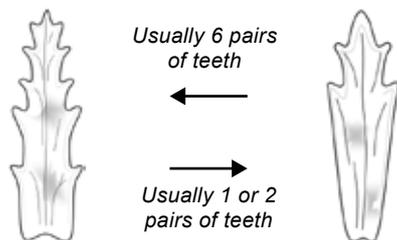
Osborn's Eyebright is endemic to South Australia and is recorded in Innes NP on southern Yorke Peninsula and Ramsay CP in the mid Yorke Peninsula. It occurs near Clare and there are isolated records for Ardrossan, Paskeville and south of Kapunda. It also grows in the Southern Lofty, South-eastern and Kangaroo Island regions.

Generally the plant occurs in mallee scrub but is also found in forests, woodlands and coastal heath. At Innes NP the plants grow in mixed mallee ecosystems dominated by Coastal White Mallee (*Eucalyptus diversifolia*). It is reported that it favours moist, fairly open habitats with profuse germination after fire (Potts 1999, in DEH and DEWHA). The plant is semi-parasitic but it is not host-specific. Populations are transient because reproduction relies upon the annual seed set and widespread germination depends on the ability to find suitable hosts.

Factsheet compiled by Greening Australia 2010

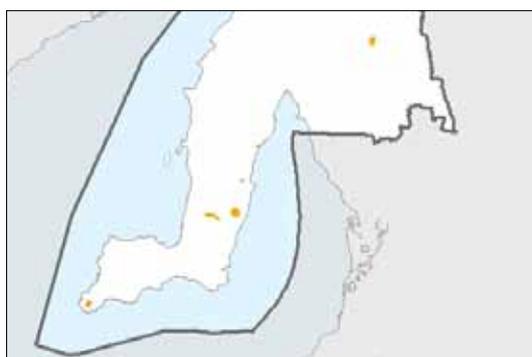
Line drawings adapted from Jessop & Tolkein 1986

Species photo courtesy of DEH - Darrell Krahenbuehl



Leaf of ssp. *osbornii*

Leaf of ssp. *tetragona*



Conservation Status

Listed as nationally **Endangered** by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC).
Listed as **Endangered** (Schedule 7) by the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (South Australia) and it is considered regionally **Endangered** in the Yorke Peninsula and Northern Lofty Botanical Regions.

Common name	Scientific name	AUS	SA	FR	NL	YP
Osborne's Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia collina</i> ssp. <i>osbornii</i>	E	E	E	E	E

Threats

Osborn's Eyebright is often found as small clusters of plants that have germinated in open areas of woodland and coastal shrubland. The plants can easily suffer a decline in population size due to altered fire regimes, habitat degradation and rabbit grazing.

Populations can be threatened by: Habitat modification, particularly the loss of open sites for recruitment. Physical damage to plants caused by rabbit and livestock grazing. Weed invasion that limits open spaces and competes for water availability. Unsuitable fire regimes (it has been recorded in firebreaks).

What you can do
Control rabbits each year.
Exclude livestock from areas where you know threatened species occur.
Report sightings to local NRM officers or DENR staff.
Control environmental weeds on your property.

Look closely for germinating plants after any type of land clearance, including after a fire or clearance for a firebreak.

Look closely along tracks where these plants may seek the openness with the extra water runoff from the track.

Further information

Berkinshaw, T.D. 2009, *Mangroves to Mallee: The Complete Guide to the Vegetation of Temperate South Australia*, Greening Australia, Adelaide South Australia

DEH 2008 Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges South Australia, *Threatened Species Profile, Osborn's Eyebright*. Fact sheet

Photo - right: example of coastal shrubland and mallee woodland (with broombush) habitat

Jessop J.P. and Tolkein H.R. 1986 *Flora of South Australia*, Fourth Edition, South Australian Printing Division, SA

DEWHA SPRAT database
www.environment.gov.au/cgi/bin/sprat/public/publicspecies

State Herbarium of South Australia
www.flora.sa.gov.au

Other NRM Fact Sheets

Seed Collection
Plant identification

Help and Assistance

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Landscape photos by Todd Berkinshaw

