**Asterolasia muricata**

**Rough Star-bush**

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**Family** RUTACEAE

**Conservation Significance**

Endemic to SA. The AMLR distribution is disjunct, isolated from other extant occurrences within SA. 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 ‘Very High’.

State-listed as Rare due to its localised distribution and scattered occurrence throughout its range.

**Description**

Small slender shrub to 1 m high with rough leaves and bright yellow flowers.

**Distribution and Population**

Confined to Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island.

Pre- and post-1983 AMLR filtered records in and around Newland Head on southern Fleurieu Peninsula. In 1992 the population in Newland Head was over 100 plants. Also known from Santa Cruz Scrub, Waitpinga.

**Habitat**

In Newland Head recorded on sandy hillsides and above coastal cliffs, in sandy loam over heavy yellow clay, growing with Eucalyptus diversifolia, E. baxteri, Xanthorrhoea sp., Hakea sp., Allocasuarina pusilla, Hibbertia sericea, Corea reflexa, Dillwynia sericea, Pultenaea trinervi, Calytrix tetragonal and Calytrix glaberrima.

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

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

**Biology and Ecology**

Flowers between August and November.

May require disturbance to stimulate recruitment.

**Aboriginal Significance**

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

**Threats**

At Newland CP cliff collections are very close to the Heysen Trail. Specimens are spindly and unlikely to draw attention other than from a trained botanist. The plants in the northern damp swale are more robust and are largely away from public areas. There are however some changes occurring in this vicinity due to clay delving on an adjacent farm. This may result in reduced summer runoff into the park due to increased water retention. The plants on the old eastern boundary are quite wispy and very scattered. There is a lack of recruitment in all sub-populations (R. Taylor pers. comm.).

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

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Regional Distribution

Map based on filtered post-1983 records. Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species’ distribution within the AMUR.

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).


