Eucalyptus paludicola

Mount Compass Swamp Gum

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**Family** MYRTACEAE

Photo: © J. Quarmby

**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 ‘Very Restricted’.

Possibly a hybrid between Eucalyptus cosmophylla and E. ovata with which it usually grows. Molecular genetic studies of AMLR populations are being undertaken in 2009 to resolve taxonomic uncertainty (J. Quarmby pers. comm. 2009).

**Description**

Tree to 12 m tall, or mallee to 5 m tall. Dark brown rough bark on the lower trunk, and smooth grey or cream bark on the upper trunk and branches. Usually has clusters of seven large gum nuts, which are cylindrical, conical or bell-shaped. Leaves are broadly lance-shaped.

**Distribution and Population**

Currently known from two regions in SA, FP and western KI.

Restricted distribution due to highly fragmented sub-populations and the continuing threat of habitat loss. Survival considered precarious.

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records mainly restricted to the Mount Compass and Hindmarsh areas, with isolated records further south-west near Parawa. Further records exist between these areas, not mapped but included in the plan’s analysis (held at the Australian National Herbarium, Canberra).

On the Fleurieu Peninsula much of its former habitat has been cleared and all subpopulations (approximately 15 including KI) are isolated and contain just a few individuals with most occurring in roadside vegetation or on private farmland (Nicolle 2005 pers. comm.). Occurs near Waitpinga, east of Myponga and west of Ashbourne, over a linear range of approximately 50 km (Nicolle 1995; State Herbarium of SA 2005).

While there is no definitive evidence of a decline in geographic distribution, it is highly likely it has declined in numbers.

**Habitat**

Often occurs near swamps and creeklines. Occurs in low, seasonally swampy areas in AMLR.

Recorded AMLR habitats include:

- Cox Scrub CP: sandy wide creek bed (periodically water-logged site) with Eucalyptus cosmophylla, E. leucoxylon, E. fasciculosa, E. viminalis ssp. cygnetensis
- Parawa: edge of wet perched peat bog swamp; hillside swamp of Tea Tree taller than Eucalyptus cosmophylla but less than E. baxteri and E. obliqua
- Mount Compass to Victor Habor road: in creek with Eucalyptus ovata and E. leucoxylon ssp.
- Nangkita: on upper fringe of swamp in peaty sand; with Eucalyptus baxteri, E. cosmophylla, Pteridium esculentum, Xanthorrhoea semiplana and Pultenaea daphnoides also on roadsides in sand with Eucalyptus ovata and E. cosmophylla
- Mount Billy (SA Water area): Eucalyptus baxteri, E. cosmophylla sandy heath with dense yacca and sedge understorey.

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Heathy Woodland, Wetland and Riparian.
Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'High'.

**Biology and Ecology**
Flowering has been recorded in May, October and December.

**Aboriginal Significance**
Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in southern Ngarrindjeri Nation, bordering Peramangk Nation.

**Threats**
Habitat loss through accidental destruction or damage during road-works. Weed competition (mainly Blackberries) and altered hydrology (e.g. construction of dams) affect young plants (Taylor and Davies 2005 pers. comm.). Appears to be no recruitment, even in swamps. Grazing by Kangaroos may be an issue.

Within the AMLR, approximately one third of known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected Phytophthora infestations.

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 AMMR.

**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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