Melaleuca squamea

Swamp Honey-myrtle

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Family MYRTACEAE

Photo: © Tony Robinson

Conservation Significance
The AMLR distribution is part of a limited extant distribution in adjacent regions within SA. Relative to all AMLR extant species, the species’ taxonomic uniqueness is classified as ‘High’.³

Description
Shrub, 1 to 6 m high. Corky bark, leaves pale green, alternating, three veins, sharp-pointed. Flowers clustered near branch tips, light purple with yellow stamens. Fruit scaly, spherical, in globular clusters on stems.¹⁻⁵

Distribution and Population
Also occurs in NSW, VIC and TAS. In SA occurs in SL, KI and SE regions.²

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records centred around Mount Compass/Hindmarsh Valley areas. Also records from Deep Creek CP and Tunkalilla areas.³

A relatively large population exists in Stipiturus CP and is comprised of potentially tens of thousands of plants (J Quambly pers. comm. 2009). An additional large population exists at Nangkita (J Quambly pers. comm. 2009).

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records indicate a broader distribution, with additional records around Myponga, suggesting a decline in the region.³

Habitat
Grows near swamp edges where it forms dense thickets.³

Recorded associations in AMLR include Leptospermum continentale, Leptocarpus tenax and Anthoxanthum odoratum. Also with Gahnia sp. and Leptospermum juniperinum.⁴

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation group is Wetland.³

Within the AMLR the species’ degree of habitat specialisation is classified as ‘Very High’.³

Biology and Ecology
Flowers in spring.²

Aboriginal Significance
Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in the far southern corner of Kaurna, Peramangk Nations, and adjoining Ngarrindjeri Nation.³

Threats
Threats include habitat modification, e.g. water use and drought resulting in drying of habitat (T. Croft pers. comm.). Browsing by livestock is potentially a threat as it seems to be palatable to cattle (J Quambly pers. comm. 2009).

Within the AMLR, approximately half of known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected Phytophthora infestations.³

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

Further information:
Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region
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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 AMVR.

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).


