**PLANT**

**Prasophyllum fecundum**  
Self-pollinating Leek-orchid

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**Family** ORCHIDACEAE

**Photo: © Cathy Houston**

**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’.

**Description**

Distinctive leek-orchid, slender, to 25 cm tall, with few tiny flowers in a loose spike, green and red-brown, to 8 mm across, strongly scented.

Similar species: Prasophyllum fitzgeraldii.

**Distribution and Population**

Scattered distribution across southern Eyre Peninsula, the ‘leg’ of Yorke Peninsula and the Barossa Valley; 20 – 150 m altitude.

Most common on Eyre Peninsula and probably once common on the Adelaide Plains before European settlement, but now restricted to the Lyndoch area.

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records from one locality, at Sandy Creek CP in the Barossa Valley. However, assessment is required as it may have recently disappeared from this site (R. Bates pers. comm.)

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records from Mount Crawford Forest.

**Habitat**

In mallee heathland, native pine and Pink Gum woodland or on rocky outcrops in the Lower North wheat belt on sandy or loamy soils. Recorded from Sandy Creek CP on sandy soil under Callitris gracilis.

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation group is Mallee.

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

**Biology and Ecology**

Flowers from mid-September for about four weeks. Self-pollinating.

As with all members of the complex does not require fire to stimulate flowering. Flowers are short-lived and blooming for an individual plant is complete in a few days.

Often occurs with the related Prasophyllum fitzgeraldii but flowers earlier.

**Aboriginal Significance**

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in Ngadjuri Nation (bordering Peramangk Nation).

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

**Threats**

Loss of understorey habitat is a major cause of decline (R. Bates pers. comm.).

Very limited occurrence within the AMLR, however the majority 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.

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**Further information:**

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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014
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).


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