**Prasophyllum pallidum**

**Pale Leek-orchid**

**Conservation Significance**
Endemic to SA. The AMLR distribution is part of a limited extant distribution in adjacent regions within SA. Within the AMLR, the species’ relative area of occupancy is classified as ‘Very Restricted’. Some forms of Prasophyllum fitzgeraldii have very pale flowers but can be readily separated on the basis of their free lateral sepals. These and plants of *P. lindleyanum* have resulted in erroneous records of *P. pallidum* in VIC. This is a free flowering species which can still be found at the type location near Adelaide.

**Description**
Plant slender, to 30 cm tall. Leaf long and lax, base green. Flowers many, to 7 mm across, wholly pale green, in loose spikes, standing well out from the spike. Flowers are sweetly fragrant.

**Distribution and Population**
Occurs in FR, NL and SL regions.

**Habitat**
Grows singly or in small groups on the more fertile soils of woodland and well-grassed open forests.

**Habitats recorded include:**
- *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* open forest, low open forest, and low woodland
- *E. goniocalyx* woodland
- *E. fasciculosa* low woodland, and low open woodland
- *E. microcarpa* woodland
- *Callitris gracilis/Eucalyptus fasciculosa* low open forest (Davies 1986).
- *Allocasuarina verticillata* over *Lissanthe strigosa*, *Amphipogon strictus* and *Tricoryne elatior*.

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

**Biology and Ecology**
Flowers from September to November. Flowers are pollinated by native wasps, which puncture the labellum to obtain secretions produced by the flower. Grows at higher densities in regenerating vegetation that has recently been burnt (Davies 1986).

**Aboriginal Significance**
Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in Ngarrindjeri, Peramangk and Kaurna Nations.
Orchidaceae species are recorded as being a traditional food source for Aboriginal people in NSW. The small tubers were roasted (Flood 1980).1

Threats
Threats include:
- grazing by rabbits, kangaroos and livestock
- weed competition (e.g. Boneseed, Harlequin Flower, exotic grasses, Bridal Creeper)
- inappropriate site management (e.g. mowing in spring when in flower)
- human impacts (e.g. residential development, damage from foot traffic)
- lack of regeneration (e.g. vegetation being allowed to reach climax state)
- small population size is an issue for some sub-populations3,7

Within the AMLR, the majority of known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected Phytophthora infestations5

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.5 Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

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).


