Prasophyllum pruinosum

**Family** ORCHIDACEAE

**Conservation Significance**
Endemic to the AMLR where the species’ relative area of occupancy is classified as ‘Extremely Restricted’.3

A record from SE is incorrect therefore it is considered an AMLR endemic (T. Croft pers. comm.).

Nomination for listing as Endangered prepared by DEH in 2009 (J. Quarmby pers. comm. 2009).

**Description**
Leek-orchid, slender, rigid, to 40 cm tall. Flowers numerous, in a narrow crowded spike, in tones of yellow-green, brown, purple-plum and white. Flowers have light minty or musty-sweet odour. Leaf red at base.2

Sometimes regarded as an aberrant member of the Prasophyllum patens complex.2

**Distribution and Population**
Once common but now extinct on the Adelaide Plains. Has experienced a significant decline throughout its limited range over the past 50 years.2

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records restricted to two localities, near Rowland Flat in the Barossa and near Black Hill CP.3

Known from eight sites with a total population size of 280 plants in 2008, but may have previously occurred at as many as 21 sites (J. Quarmby pers. comm. 2009). Sandy Creek and Belair NP have the largest populations (J. Quarmby pers. comm. 2009).

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records indicate a much wider historic distribution, occurring from the northern Adelaide Plains near Roseworthy, Lyndoch and One Tree Hill, along the foothills south to Port Noarlunga, and east to the Mount Barker area.3

**Habitat**
Open woodland and grassy forest with Callitris gracilis, Eucalyptus leucoxylon and E. fasciculosa. Occurs in the open or in the shelter of broom-like shrubs in well-drained fertile loams and sandy soils, usually with other leek-orchids.2

In the Barossa occurs on deep sandy soils, with Callitris gracilis, Acacia leucoxylon and Eucalyptus fasciculosa.4

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation group is Grassy Woodland.3

Within the AMLR the species’ degree of habitat specialisation is classified as ‘Moderate-Low’.3

**Biology and Ecology**
Flowers from late September to November. An out-crossing species, visited by bees and flies.2

Flowers freely without fire. Too frequent fires have destroyed entire sub-populations, e.g. at Anstey Hill.2

**Aboriginal Significance**
Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in Kaurna Nation and Ngadjuri Nation (bordering Peramangk Nation).3

Orchidaceae species are recorded as being a traditional food source for Aboriginal people in NSW. The small tubers were roasted (Flood 1980).1
Threats
Various threats are contributing to the decline of this species:
- weed competition (e.g. Boneseed and Bridal Creeper)
- grazing impact from rabbits, kangaroos and stock
- human impacts
- lack of formal protection for some sites (e.g. Wadmore Park)
- lack of recruitment of shrubs related to inappropriate fire regimes (R. Bates, K. Brewer and J. Smith pers. comm.).

Very limited occurrence in AMLR region, however 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.

Regional Distribution

Map based on filtered post-1983 records.2 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).


