Thelymitra peniculata

**Peniculate Sun-orchid**

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**Family** ORCHIDACEAE

**Conservation Significance**
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'.

Most of the collections are misidentified and belong to other species including *T. latifolia* and *T. batesii* (R. Bates pers. comm.).

**Description**
Sun-orchid with flower stem to 30 cm high. Flowers four to ten, about 2 cm across, pale to mid blue, often with darker blue veins, cup shaped, with no fragrance.

**Distribution and Population**
Also occurs in NSW, ACT, VIC and TAS. In SA occurs in SL, SE, EP, MU and FR regions.

In SA, recorded from higher rainfall districts. More widespread in the eastern Australia.

Post-1983 AMLR filtered record from near Kersbrook.

There are additional records in this general area however spatial reliability is very poor.

There are historical records for McLaren Vale, Highbury and Hahndorf areas.

**Habitat**
Thelymitra peniculata may include several taxa from different habitats ranging from peaty swamp margins, coastal dunes and ti-tree heath. Restricted to damp, heathy, often sandy sites.

Grows in open forest, woodland, grassy woodland, heathland and grassland in well-drained soil.

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

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

**Biology and Ecology**
Flowers from late October to late November. Flowers are self-pollinating and only open on hot days.

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

**Threats**
Available habitat is gradually being over-run with Blackberries and Gorse. The only known increasing populations are in old paddocks being returned to bush, but unless Blackberries are controlled these areas too are under threat (B. Bates pers. comm.).

Very limited within the AMLR region, 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.

Further information:
Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901  Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999
Regional Distribution

Map based on filtered post-1983 records. 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).


