**Viola betonicifolia ssp. betonicifolia**

**Showy Violet**

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**Family** VIOLACEAE

**Habitat**

Occurs in a variety of habitats, including woodland, forest, heathland, shrubland and herbfields.²,¹¹

At Mount Bold, recorded growing in damp grassy Eucalyptus obliqua +/- E. viminalis woodland and lower south facing slopes in a shallow gully, with Eucalyptus viminalis, Ranunculus lappaceus, Ajuga australis and Scaevola albida (T. Jury pers. comm.).⁸

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Heathy Woodland and Grassy Woodland.⁶

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'Moderate-Low'.⁶

**Biology and Ecology**

Flowers from September to January.⁴,⁹

Provides ground cover for butterflies and is a known food plant of the butterfly Argyreus hyperbius inconstans (which does not occur in SA).¹⁰

Recorded as having a robust fire response, unlikely to be affected by repeated fires.⁷

**Aboriginal Significance**

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in southern Peramangk Nation.⁶

**Threats**

Threats include:

- weed competition: populations are currently under threat from Montpelier Broom (Genista monspessulanus) (D. Duval pers. comm.)
- inappropriate site management: e.g. off-target damage from herbicide spraying of watercourses is a potential threat
- habitat destruction: may be affected by the proposed increase in the capacity of Mount Bold Reservoir (D. Duval pers. comm.)⁵

Very limited within the AMLR region, however the majority of known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected Phytophthora infestations.⁶

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

**Conservation Significance**

In SA, the majority of the distribution is confined within the AMLR, disjunct from the remaining extant distribution in other States. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'. Relative to all AMLR extant species, the species' taxonomic uniqueness is classified as 'High'.⁶

**Description**

Small herb with short erect stems, to ankle high. Grows as single plants. Leaves oblong or lance-shape. Petals purple.⁴,⁹

**Distribution and Population**

Also occurs in NSW, VIC, TAS and ACT. In SA only occurs in SE region with historical records also in the SE region.¹,³

Previously thought to be extinct in SA but was recently rediscovered in Mount Bold Reservoir (D. Duval pers. comm.). Exists in small patches of up to 100 plants.⁸

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records indicate it once had a wider distribution, occurring near Kangarilla, Woodside, Nairne, Meadows, and south of Gumeracha.⁶

**Further information:**

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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 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).


