Xyris operculata

**Family** XYRIDACEAE

**Habitat**
Grows on the edges of marshes and swamps. Outside the region also occurs in coastal and riparian zones in damp and swampy areas.

Within the AMLR confined to Fleurieu Peninsula swamps including peat bogs (T. Croft and R. Taylor pers. comm.). Found in a number of swamps but generally uncommon.

In the AMLR, recorded habitats include:
- Waitpinga: amongst thick *Gleichenia microphylla*
- Cleland Gully Road: black saturated soil, growing near *Viminaria juncea*, *Baumea rubiginosa*, *B. tetragona* and *Utricularia dichotoma*
- Yundi: growing with *Gleichenia microphylla*, *Viminaria sp.*, and *Leptospermum continentale.*

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation group is Wetland.

Within the AMLR the species’ degree of habitat specialisation is classified as ‘Very High’.

**Biology and Ecology**
Flowers in summer.

Recorded regenerating after a fire in 1997 at Waitpinga.

**Aboriginal Significance**
Post-1983 records indicate the AMLR distribution occurs in southern Kaurna and Peramangk, and Ngarrindjeri Nations.

**Threats**
Threats are those facing the endangered Fleurieu Peninsula swamps ecological community, including weeds, altered water regimes and grazing (T. Croft pers. comm.).

Approximately half 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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**Conservation Significance**
The AMLR distribution is disjunct, isolated from other extant occurrences within SA. Relative to all AMLR extant species, the species’ taxonomic uniqueness is classified as ‘Very High’.

**Description**
Tufted herb to 50 cm high with grass-like leaves. Bright yellow three-petaled flower, 5-6 mm long on the end of slender erect stalks, to 60 cm. Stems are usually twisted like a very loose spring.

**Distribution and Population**
Also occurs in QLD, NSW, VIC and TAS. In SA occurs in SL, KI and SE regions.

In the AMLR, occurs on the Fleurieu Peninsula. There are more historical than recent collections (T. Croft pers. comm.).

Post-1983 AMLR filtered multiple records from the Mount Compass area. Also recorded in the surrounding Myponga area, Mount Billy CP, and from southern Fleurieu Peninsula from Deep Creek CP and Second Valley Forest areas.

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered additional historic records from Kangarilla and Inman Valley areas.

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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).


