

Subject: RE: Missing species information related questions

From: "Milner, Richard" <Richard.Milner@act.gov.au>

Date: 15/7/20, 1:47 pm

To: Emily Hedger <e.hedger@uq.net.au>

CC: Annabel Smith <annabel.smith@uq.edu.au>

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Emily,

Description of letters in Column K and L etc below. Please note that for all native forb species – an exact count of all individuals was made, while for grass species and I think exotic forbs – a estimate of count was made where there were more than 16 individuals. Let me know if this doesn't make sense. As for the grey shaded column – for species such as Lomandra and Tricoryne it is quite difficult to determine exactly how many plants there are. Because of this we generally measured abundance in two ways – 1. Clumps or handfuls of plants (nonshaded column) and individual tufts or nodes. This was done as we felt that the handful/separate clump scores didn't always adequately reflect the amount of Tricoryne/Lomandra present e.g. a Tricoryne score of A4 might be quite a lot, or it might just be 4 tiny separate clumps. Anyway, we scored them the usual way as well, so we can always look at that later. I don't mind which one we use.

Cover	Code
<5%	A
5-10%	B
11-20	C
21-30	D
31-40	E
41-50	F
51-60	G
61-70	H
71-80	I
81-90	J
91-100	K
Count/Abundance	Code
if less than 16 include exact count	
16-50	W
51-100	X
>100	Y

In regards to the first excel spreadsheet – I have filled out the missing information.

In regards to the second excel spreadsheet – the ACT Government has just undertaken a review of species significance ratings. Please see the attached spreadsheet which I believe should cover all the species in the second spreadsheet. Please let me know if this is not the case and I will flick through any missing information. Below are the descriptions of the different significance ratings.

- A = 'indicator species, level A': species that are uncommon in the region, and where they occur, generally indicate grassland sites of high to very high value; such species occur very rarely or in very low numbers in grasslands that have been subject to intense, frequent, long-term or sometimes even one-off disturbances, such as ploughing, heavy stock grazing pressures or application of fertilisers. Some of these species are also inherently rare. This category includes all threatened flora species that are listed under the NSW and Australian Government Acts;
- B = 'indicator species, level B': species that are more common in grassland sites, relative to 'level A' species. They generally occur less frequently in highly disturbed sites, though some persist with intermediate levels of disturbance; and
- C = 'common or increaser species, level C': species that are thought to be 'disturbance-tolerant', 'disturbance responding' or 'increaser' species. Increasers respond positively to various disturbances and are thus most commonly recorded in disturbed or degraded sites.

- X = 'level X' species: these are the high-impact species, such as Phalaris (*Phalaris aquatica*), African Love-grass (*Eragrostis curvula*), the exotic stipoid grasses, Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) and Chilean Needle-grass (*N. neesiana*) and Coolatai Grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*). They are often, though not in every region, declared noxious weeds, and are the most intractable species, and if occurring over a large proportion of the site, may render the site's value to be low, despite its other inherent values, as they are difficult, time-consuming and costly to remove without also severely impacting on the native species at the site;
- Y = 'level Y' species: these are less significant, though still quite persistent species, mostly either perennial, or biennial, and sometimes woody. They include species such as Cootamundra Wattle (*Acacia baileyana*), Sweet Briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*), St John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and Goat's-beard (*Tragopogon* spp.). These species can usually be easily removed, even if occurring in high cover over a site, but are generally not as important to control as the 'level X' species; and
- Z = 'level Z' species: these include the common, though low-impact, mostly annual weeds, such as, hair-grasses (*Aira* spp.), Red Bartsia (*Parentucellia latifolia*) or Pelisser's Toadflax (*Linaria pelisseriana*); they generally have little impact on a grassland's value.

Thanks,

Richard

From: Emily Hedger <e.hedger@uq.net.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 July 2020 7:45 PM
To: Milner, Richard <Richard.Milner@act.gov.au>
Cc: Annabel Smith <annabel.smith@uq.edu.au>
Subject: Missing species information related questions

Hi Richard,

I'm currently cleaning the data and have some questions.

- In the data sheets STJW 2017 SURVEYS etc what do the letters A, B, C and D stand for in the first data column (eg. column K)?
- What are the numbers in the following column, are they count data? There is also letters in this column (W and X), what do they stand for?
- What is the purpose of the next shaded column?

I have attached an excel file with two spreadsheets which have species that I need more information on. The first sheet has the names of the species which are not included on the Functional Groups sheet in the original data set, are you able to provide me some information regarding the Indicator type and Importance status of these species.

The second sheet shows a list of species for which I do not have information about their Status or Rarity, are you able to give me some insight into this for these species.

Kind regards

Emily

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