

Progress Report SP 2012-031

Biosystematics of fungi for conservation and restoration of Western Australia's biota

Plant Science and Herbarium

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Project Team

granted

Program Leader

granted

Directorate

granted

Biosystematics of fungi for conservation and restoration of Western Australia's biota

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Context

This work augments the state's biodiversity knowledge base by creating and applying fungal scientific knowledge for conservation and management of the state's biodiversity.

Aims

- Generate and provide scientifically accurate and comprehensive taxonomic data for fungal taxa in Western Australia that are previously unrecorded, unidentified, misidentified, or ill-defined, particularly taxa of relevance to specific, current Parks and Wildlife conservation initiatives.
- Make available descriptive information about fungi taxa in published form and in online information systems.
- Improve access and uptake of scientific knowledge about fungi and thereby promote better awareness and understanding by scientists and community of the significance of fungal diversity and function in bushlands.
- Achieve greater taxonomic and geographic representation of Western Australian fungi in datasets and as permanent vouchers at the Western Australian Herbarium.

Progress

- Completed 2015 field surveys and associated taxonomic identification studies
- Submitted survey reports to clients
- Completed and submitted survey data and vouchers to Western Australian Herbarium
- Completed analyses of food sources for Gilberts potoroo recovery program

Management implications

The availability of scientifically accurate and comprehensive information about taxa of fungi in Western Australia will encourage and allow Parks and Wildlife and the community to incorporate knowledge of fungi into management practices. This includes regional biological surveys, managing the interdependent linkages between fungi and plants and animals, and providing a better basis for assessment of the conservation status of fungi taxa.

Future directions

- Complete the review, editorial and publication processes for monographic book on the Australian Inocybaceae.
- Taxonomic research defining and documenting species of fungi in Western Australian.
- Improve representation and accuracy of data for fungi in the Western Australian Herbarium and in WACensus.
- Fungi surveys in bushlands in conjunction with public community members.