

Progress Report SP 2011-013

Taxonomic studies on native and naturalised plants of Western Australia arising from biological survey

Plant Science and Herbarium

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Project Team	granted
Program Leader	granted
Directorate	granted

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Context

Many Declared Rare Flora have nomenclatural and taxonomic issues that require resolution for their conservation and management. Many new taxa are routinely uncovered during biological survey and require taxonomic description and conservation assessment. Correct identification and recording of weeds are a major issue for biodiversity conservation.

Aims

- Provide informative, stable taxonomy of potentially conservation-dependent taxa to aid their conservation and management, especially rare flora.
- Ensure that new taxa discovered during biological surveys are curated and described where possible. Studies are being undertaken on *Adenanthos pungens*, *Calytrix breviseta*, *Hypocalymma angustifolium*, *Adenanthos eyeri* - *A. forrestii* - *A. ileticus* species complex, *Cynoglossum*, *Grevillea curviloba* and *Grevillea evanescens*.
- Update weed data for collections in the Western Australian Herbarium.

Progress

- Papers on naturalised *Quercus*, *Paspalum* and *Protea* prepared.
- Several new weeds recorded for Western Australia.
- Papers on adding / deleting weeds for Western Australia prepared.
- Paper on weeds on west coast offshore islands published.
- Papers on *Grevillea curviloba* prepared.
- Nomenclature of Declared *Xanthium* species clarified.
- Status of an additional 34 weeds in Western Australia assessed.

Management implications

- The clarification that *Paspalum vaginatum* is weedy native and not an introduced alien will result in considerable savings for the management of the Mandora Marsh Ramsar wetland.
- Tall Wheat Grass has been identified as a potentially serious weed of the EPBC listed Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh Threatened Ecological Community recorded in WA.
- Management of *Typha orientalis* is being completely redesigned as it is now considered a native not an invasive exotic.
- Wild populations of several weeds of national significance targeted for eradication
- A new weed checklist for the Kimberley has been produced and new priority targets are being prepared.

Future directions

- Continue updating the curation, nomenclature and status of naturalised vascular plants for Western Australia by preparing briefing notes, reports, short articles and papers as issues arise.
- Publish a paper on the procedural systems for adding and deleting naturalised plants from the WACensus.
- Publish a paper on weeds of tropical coast islands.
- Complete drafting descriptions for 25 new *Darwinia* species.
- Submit a paper on the *Hypocalymma angustifolium* complex.