

A statement for the purposes of approved conservation advice
(s266B of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*)

Approved Conservation Advice for
***Stenanthemum pimeleoides* (Spreading Stenanthemum)**

This Conservation Advice has been developed based on the best available information at the time this conservation advice was approved.

Description

Stenanthemum pimeleoides, Family Rhamnaceae, also known as the Spreading Stenanthemum, is a small mat-forming plant with a woody base and slender branches. It has clusters of stalkless white flowers surrounded by brown bracts and two or three very conspicuous whitish 'floral leaves.' It grows in dry sclerophyll forest or woodland with an open shrubby or heathy understorey.

Conservation Status

Spreading Stenanthemum is listed as **vulnerable**. This species is eligible for listing as vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC Act) as it has a limited geographic distribution and is subject to ongoing threats (TSSC, 2006).

The species is also listed as vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (Tasmania).

Distribution and Habitat

Spreading Stenanthemum is endemic to Tasmania, occurring along Tasmania's central East Coast and also in the northern Midlands. The species occurs in 22 subpopulations with a population size of more than 24 700 mature individuals. Its extent of occurrence is approximately 4050 km², and its area of occupancy is approximately 0.32 km² (TSSC, 2006). Known past population declines include one entire subpopulation at Orford, and part of another subpopulation during the construction of a car park at Freycinet National Park in the 1980s (Coates, 1991a).

This species occurs within the North and South Tasmania Natural Resource Management Regions.

The distribution of this species is not known to overlap with any EPBC Act-listed threatened ecological communities.

Threats

The main identified threats to Spreading Stenanthemum are land clearance, inappropriate fire regimes, and grazing from domestic and native animals (Coates, 1991b).

Research Priorities

Research priorities that would inform future regional and local priority actions include:

- Design and implement a monitoring program to gauge the impact of fire and/or grazing.

Regional Priority Actions

The following regional priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of Spreading *Stenanthemum*.

Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Investigate formal conservation arrangements, management agreements and covenants on private land, and for crown and private land investigate inclusion in reserve tenure if possible.

Conservation Information

- Raise awareness of Spreading *Stenanthemum* within the local community.

Enable Recovery of Additional Sites and/or Populations

- Undertake appropriate seed collection and storage.

Local Priority Actions

The following local priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of Spreading *Stenanthemum*.

Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Undertake survey work in suitable habitat and potential habitat to locate any additional populations.

Trampling, Browsing or Grazing

- Manage known sites on private property to ensure appropriate cattle and sheep grazing regimes are conducted.

Fire

- Implement an appropriate fire management regime for local populations.

This list does not necessarily encompass all actions that may be of benefit to Spreading *Stenanthemum*, but highlights those that are considered to be of highest priority at the time of preparing the conservation advice.

Existing Plans/Management Prescriptions that are Relevant to the Species

- *Stenanthemum pimeleoides* Flora Recovery Plan: Management Phase (Coates, 1991a).
- Recovery Plan for Selected Tasmanian Forest Associated Plants (Barker and Johnson, 1998).
- Draft Greater Freycinet Region Threatened Species Recovery Plan (Threatened Species Section, 2004).

These prescriptions were current at the time of publishing; please refer to the relevant agency's website for any updated versions.

Information Sources:

Barker and Johnson (1998). Recovery Plan for Selected Tasmanian Forest Associated Plants. Forestry Tasmania, Hobart.

Coates F (1991a). The Conservation Ecology and Management of Five Rare species in the Rhamnaceae Family. Wildlife Scientific Report 91/3, Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, Hobart.

Coates F (1991b). *Stenanthemum pimeleoides* Flora Recovery Plan: Management Phase. Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, Tasmania.

Threatened Species section (2004). Draft Greater Freycinet Region Threatened Species Recovery Plan 2004–2008. Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, Hobart.

TSSC 2006 (Threatened Species Scientific Committee) (2006). Listing advice for *Stenanthemum pimeleoides* (Spreading *Stenanthemum*).