

Approved Conservation Advice  
(s266B of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*)

**Approved Conservation Advice for**  
***Pomaderris clivicola***

This Conservation Advice has been developed based on the best available information at the time this Conservation Advice was approved; this includes existing plans, records or management prescriptions for this species.

**Description**

*Pomaderris clivicola*, Family Rhamnaceae, is a multi-stemmed shrub 3–4 m high with tessellated bark at the base of the plant. The smooth stems are ascending and purplish-brown with many lenticels (pore structures shaped like lenses). Twigs are slender and densely hairy but less hairy along the twig. Leaves are ovate and 15–32 mm long and 6–12 mm wide, occasionally smaller, the point of the leaf tapers to a blunt or sometimes sharp point. Flowers occur in small terminal panicles. Flower sepals are yellow to cream inside and petals are absent. Flowering occurs from December to January. Fruits are capsules about 2 mm long, round and covered in hairs.

*Pomaderris clivicola* is similar to *P. cinerea*, but differs in having ovate leaves with long hairs overlying the short dense curved hairs on the underside of the leaf, and a hairless style. It is also similar to *P. tropica* but differs in having smaller leaves, a sparser covering of long hairs on the lower leaf surface, shorter sepals and longer staminal filaments (Ross, 1990).

**Conservation Status**

*Pomaderris clivicola* 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, prior to the commencement of the EPBC Act, it was listed as vulnerable under Schedule 1 of the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992* (Cwlth). It is also listed as endangered under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Queensland).

**Distribution and Habitat**

*Pomaderris clivicola* occurs in a restricted area in south-eastern Queensland, where it is known only from two localities: Binjour Plateau near Gayndah and Walla Range near Coalstoun Lakes. It has a distributional range of about 50 km. The larger population is found at Walla Range and consists of around 1600 plants on freehold land. The smaller population was recorded in 1990 at Binjour Plateau, 4.5 km south of Binjour on the road to Humphrey, and consisted of about 50 plants on a road verge and adjacent freehold land (Ross, 1990). At this second site, some parts of the population were destroyed by the construction of Glen Eden Range Rd (Thomas & Singh, 1999).

At Binjour Plateau, *Pomaderris clivicola* occurs on a steep south-facing slope, in red volcanic soils, below outcropping rock. Associated vegetation includes *Eucalyptus cloeziana* and *Corymbia citriodora* tall open forest with an open understorey of semi-evergreen vine thicket species, such as *Owenia venosa*, *Zanthoxylum brachyacanthum*, *Alstonia scholaris* and *Caesalpinia scortechinii*. At Walla Range, this species occurs on variously facing slopes, in grey soil with occasional rock. It grows in open forest, and on the edge of and within dry scrub. Some plants occur in a cleared open grassy area (Ross, 1990; Queensland Herbarium 1999, pers. comm.). This species occurs within the Burnett Mary (Queensland) Natural Resource Management Region.

The distribution of this species overlaps with the following EPBC Act-listed threatened ecological communities:

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- Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions, and
- Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant).

### **Threats**

The main identified threats to *Pomaderris clivicola* are the spread of the introduced grass Green Panic (*Panicum maximum* var. *trichoglume*) by direct competition and by increasing fuel loads with a subsequent change in the fire regime. In addition, cattle at the Walla site have caused damage to mature plants and may suppress seedling establishment (Thomas & Singh, 1999).

The main potential threats to *P. clivicola* include extinction from stochastic events as a result of being naturally restricted; roadwork; vehicular traffic; and changed fire regimes (ANRA 2007a, 2007b).

### **Research Priorities**

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

- Design and implement a monitoring program or, if appropriate, support and enhance existing programs.
- More precisely assess population size, distribution, ecological requirements and the relative impacts of threatening processes.
- Undertake survey work in suitable habitat and potential habitat to locate any additional populations/occurrences/remnants.
- Undertake seed germination and/or vegetative propagation trials to determine the requirements for successful establishment.

### **Regional and Local Priority Actions**

The following regional and local priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of *P. clivicola*.

#### **Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification**

- Monitor known populations to identify key threats.
- Monitor the progress of recovery, including the effectiveness of management actions and the need to adapt them if necessary.
- Identify populations of high conservation priority.
- Ensure road widening and maintenance activities (or other infrastructure or development activities) involving substrate or vegetation disturbance in areas where *P. clivicola* occurs do not adversely impact on known populations.
- Minimise adverse impacts from land use at known sites.
- Suitably control access to known sites.
- Investigate formal conservation arrangements, management agreements and covenants on private land, and for crown and private land investigate inclusion in reserve tenure if possible.

#### **Invasive Weeds**

- Identify and remove weeds in the local area, including Green Panic, which could become a threat to *P. clivicola*, using appropriate methods.
- Manage sites to prevent introduction of invasive weeds, which could become a threat to the species, using appropriate methods.
- Ensure chemicals or other mechanisms used to eradicate weeds do not have a significant adverse impact on *P. clivicola*.

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#### Trampling, Browsing or Grazing

- Develop and implement a stock management plan for roadside verges and travelling stock routes.
- Manage known sites to ensure appropriate cattle grazing regimes occur.
- Prevent grazing pressure at known sites through exclusion fencing or other barriers.

#### Fire

- Develop and implement a suitable fire management strategy for *P. clivicola*.
- Identify appropriate intensity and interval of fire to promote seed germination and/or vegetation regeneration.
- Provide maps of known occurrences to local and state Rural Fire Services and seek inclusion of mitigative measures in bush fire risk management plans, risk register and/or operation maps.

#### Conservation Information

- Raise awareness of *P. clivicola* within the local community, particularly landholders.

#### Enable Recovery of Additional Sites and/or Populations

- Undertake appropriate seed collection and storage.
- Investigate options for linking, enhancing or establishing additional populations.
- Implement national translocation protocols (Vallee et al., 2004) if establishing additional populations is considered necessary and feasible.

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

#### **Information Sources:**

Australian Natural Resources Atlas (ANRA) 2007a, *Biodiversity Assessment - Brigalow Belt South*, viewed 05 May 2008, <<http://www.anra.gov.au/topics/vegetation/assessment/qld/ibra-bbs-species-threats.html>>.

Australian Natural Resources Atlas (ANRA) 2007b, *Biodiversity Assessment - South Eastern Queensland*, viewed 05 May 2008, <<http://www.anra.gov.au/topics/vegetation/assessment/qld/ibra-seq-species-threats.html>>.

Queensland Herbarium (Staff from Queensland Herbarium participating in workshop to validate the distribution of Queensland threatened species) 1999. Personal communication.

Ross, EM 1990, '*Pomaderris* Labill. (Rhamnaceae) in Queensland, 1', *Austrobaileya*, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 309–316.

Thomas, MB & Singh, S 1999, *BRI file No. 900P, Field survey and report on the endangered species Pomaderris clivicola*, Queensland Herbarium, Environmental Protection Authority, Queensland.

Vallee, L, Hogbin, T, Monks, L, Makinson, B, Matthes, M & Rossetto, M 2004, *Guidelines for the Translocation of Threatened Plants in Australia* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), Australian Network for Plant Conservation, Canberra.