

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

Approved Conservation Advice for
Plectranthus habrophyllus

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

Plectranthus habrophyllus, Family Lamiaceae, is a woody, square-stemmed herb growing up to 40 cm tall with scented foliage. Leaves are up to 45 mm long, opposite, oval-shaped, fleshy, with 4–8 teeth on each margin. Inflorescences are terminal spikes to 20 cm long, with clusters (verticillasters) of 10–12, light purple, two-lipped flowers, 7–8.8 mm long.

Plectranthus habrophyllus is similar to *P. suaveolens*, but is distinguished by the green foliage, complete lack of sessile (not stalked) glands, the long shaggy glandular hairs and the shorter corolla (less than 9 mm long) (Forster, 1994; Queensland Herbarium, 2008)

Conservation Status

Plectranthus habrophyllus is listed as **endangered**. This species is eligible for listing as endangered 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 endangered under Schedule 1 of the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992* (Cwlth).

Plectranthus habrophyllus is also listed as endangered under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Queensland).

Distribution and Habitat

Plectranthus habrophyllus is known from only six locations in south-east Queensland, between Ipswich and Ormeau. Three populations occur in White Rock Conservation Park, two in small corridors through urban areas, and one in a proposed quarry site (Forster, 1994; Queensland Herbarium, 2008). The total population size is unknown, but some of these sites record only a few plants present (Queensland Herbarium, 2008).

Plectranthus habrophyllus occurs on rock outcrops of sandstone or chert in shaded situations in eucalypt woodland often close to vine forest. It occurs within the South East Queensland Natural Resource Management Region.

The distribution of this species overlaps with the “White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland” EPBC Act-listed threatened ecological community.

Threats

The main identified threats to *P. habrophyllus* are competition from introduced weeds, such as Lantana (*Lantana camara*) and Creeping Lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*), which also increase fuel loads resulting in increased fire intensity and frequency (P.I. Forster, 2008, pers. comm.).

The main potential threats include habitat destruction and degradation from increasing urban development in locations outside of protected areas. The site on the south-eastern edge of its range is a proposed quarry.

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 and potential habitat to locate any additional populations/occurrences/remnants.

Regional and Local Priority Actions

The following priority recovery and threat abatement actions can be done to support the recovery of *Plectranthus habrophyllus*.

Habitat Loss, Disturbance and Modification

- Monitor known populations to identify key threats.
- Identify populations of high conservation priority.
- Prevent quarrying operations in areas where *P. habrophyllus* occurs.
- Monitor the progress of recovery, including the effectiveness of management actions and the need to adapt them if necessary.
- Ensure chemicals or other mechanisms used to eradicate weeds do not have a significant adverse impact on *Plectranthus habrophyllus*.
- Minimise adverse impacts from land use at 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.
- Manage any other known, potential or emerging threats.

Invasive Weeds

- Develop and implement a management plan for the control of Lantana and Creeping Lantana in the local region.
- Identify and remove weeds in the local area, which could become a threat to *P. habrophyllus*, using appropriate methods.
- Manage sites to prevent introduction of invasive weeds, which could become a threat to the species, using appropriate methods.

Fire

- Develop and maintain a suitable fire management strategy for *P. habrophyllus*.
- 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 the *P. habrophyllus* within the local community.

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. habrophyllus*, but highlights those that are considered to be of highest priority at the time of preparing the conservation advice.

This Conservation Advice was approved by the Minister / Delegate of the Minister on:
1/10/2008

Existing Plans/Management Prescriptions that are Relevant to the Species

- Weeds of National Significance: Lantana (*Lantana camara*) (ARMCANZ, 2001).

This prescription was current at the time of publishing; please refer to the relevant agency's website for any updated versions.

Information Sources:

Agriculture & Resource Management Council of Australia & New Zealand (ARMCANZ) 2001, *Weeds of National Significance: Lantana (Lantana camara) Strategic Plan*, National Weeds Strategy, <<http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/xbcr/dpi/IPA-Lantana-Nsplan.pdf>>.

Forster, PI 1994, 'Ten new species of *Plectranthus* L 'Her. (Lamiaceae) from Queensland', *Austrobaileya*, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 159–186.

Forster, PI (Queensland Herbarium EPA). Personal communication. 29 May 2008.

Queensland Herbarium 2008, Specimen label information, viewed 19 May 2008.

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