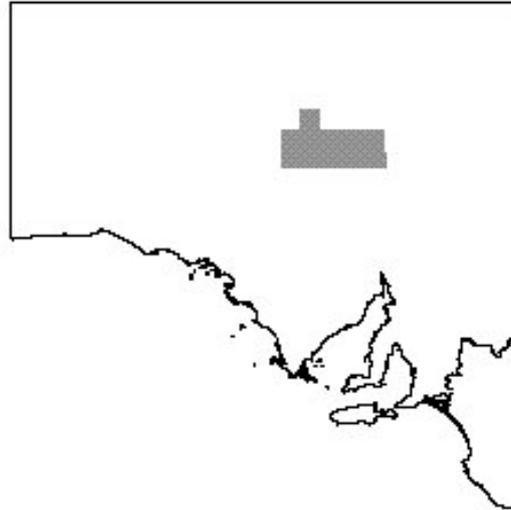


Biological Survey of Lake Eyre South

Slaytor, W.J.H. (ed.) (1999) *Lake Eyre South: Volume 1, 2 and 3*. Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Inc.

Undertaken by: Royal Geographical
Society of South
Australia and
Western Mining Co.
Surveyed in: 1995 - 1996
Published: 2000
Availability: Royal Geographical
Society of South
Australia Inc
GPO Box 419
Adelaide SA 5001



Summary:

Studies of the biological components of the Lake Eyre South Study (LESS) were initiated to identify key habitats, species and localities within the study region and to provide data for the South Australian Biological Survey Database. This study therefore forms an integral precursor to informed land management planning for the region.

The climate of the study region is amongst the most arid of any Australian geographic region, with a long-term mean rainfall of approximately 150 mm. Annual rainfall is highly variable in the region and rainfall was slightly higher than 150 mm in the three-year period, and considerably more in the 20-year period, prior to this survey.

The biological and landscape components of 121 habitat patches were systematically surveyed over a one-year period from April 1995 to April 1996. All data were recorded using standard Biological Survey of South Australia methodology. Chenopod shrublands are the most widespread habitat type in the study region and hence were surveyed by the highest percentage of site patches. Other major habitat types surveyed in decreasing order of abundance were patchy gibber plains, cracking clay plains, woodland, sand dunes and rocky outcrops. Pastoralism is the principal landuse of the study region, although the influence of feral rabbits is more pervasive than domestic cattle grazing.

A number of survey techniques and historical databases were used to augment the data from the systematic site records. Standard procedures and analytical techniques that are applicable to a range of studies are documented.

Volume 1 of the series is in 3 parts:

- Part 1 Introduction;
- Part 2 Mammals;
- Part 3 Reptiles and Amphibians.

Volume 2 of the series is in 2 parts:

- Part 1 Vegetation;
- Part 2 Reconnaissance Survey of Cryptograms.

Volume 3 of the series is in 1 part:

- Part 1 Birds.