

Threatened Flora of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin

Menzel's Wattle *Acacia menzeli*

Nationally vulnerable

Description

- An erect, compact, rounded and spreading shrub of 1 - 2 m.
- Leaves are 1.5 - 3.5 cm long, 1 mm in diameter, straight or slightly curved with nearly no point and with 5 or 6 longitudinal resinous veins making leaves feel sticky.
- Flowers are simple and axillary, present either as singles or doubles with flower-heads containing 25 - 30 individual flowers.
- Seed pods are linear, 2.5 - 4.5 cm long, 2 - 3 mm broad, curved or slightly twisted, brown and acute at each end.
- Seeds have a large, whitish, fleshy aril.

Ecology

- A perennial shrub that flowers predominantly between July and October.
- Grows on soil types ranging from loams to sandy loams.



Menzel's Wattle plant.



Close-up of Menzel's Wattle leaves.

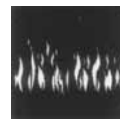
Conservation rating

Menzel's Wattle is listed as nationally vulnerable. Recent survey work indicates that there are approximately 5600 individual plants remaining in the South Australian Murray Darling Basin.

Threats



Fragmentation



Inappropriate fire regime



Lack of new plants



Weed competition

One of the major threats to Menzel's Wattle is the lack of recruitment among populations, which may be influenced by an inappropriate fire regime, although further research is required to accurately determine the cause. Other major threats to this species include the fragmented nature of many of the populations and weed competition, particularly from annual grassy weeds and bridal creeper. Further knowledge is required on the ecology, threats and populations trends of this species to accurately determine its rate of decline. Several of the larger populations would benefit by inclusion in the government reserve system, while many roadside populations should be included in roadside marker scheme programs.

Habitat



Menzel's Wattle growing in a Mallee Box (*Eucalyptus porosa*) open woodland.

Menzel's Wattle occurs in woodland and mallee communities.

The overstorey of the woodland habitats are dominated by;

- Mallee Box (*Eucalyptus porosa*)
- Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* ssp. *leucoxylon*)
- Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus odorata*)
- Southern Cypress Pine (*Callitris preissii*)
- Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*)

The overstorey of the mallee habitats are dominated by;

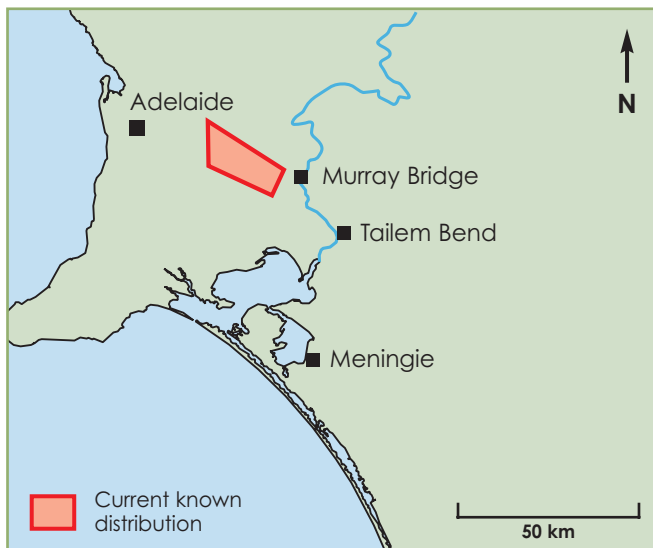
- White Mallee (*Eucalyptus phenax* ssp. *phenax*)
- Beaked Red Mallee (*Eucalyptus socialis*)

There is commonly a midstorey shrub layer within these communities dominated by *Acacia* species and the understorey is dominated by grasses, sedges and small shrubs.

Distribution

Menzel's Wattle is a species endemic to South Australia. Within the South Australian Murray Darling Basin populations are known to occur in the following areas;

- Murray Bridge
- Monarto



Distribution of Menzel's Wattle in the South Australian Murray Darling Basin.

How you can help

Please be aware of native plants and help preserve them by;

- Preventing damage by grazing
- Preventing removal/illegal collection
- Preventing competition from weeds
- Never picking native flowers, take a photo instead
- Joining your local Bush For Life or Native Vegetation Group and help to look after a threatened plant population
- Reporting any sightings of Menzel's Wattle to the contacts listed below.

Details of contacts

- Dept for Environment and Heritage, Berri, SA
(08) 8595 2111
- Threatened Plant Action Group,
120 Wakefield St, Adelaide, SA 5000
(08) 8223 6301

Further Information

Department for Environment and Heritage, Berri, SA

Telephone (08) 8595 2111

www.environment.sa.gov.au

Photos courtesy of C. Obst

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