



*Prostanthera eurybioides*

Monarto Mintbush

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
E	E	E	State	Perennial

Family LABIATAE



Photo: M. Fagg ©ANBG

**Conservation Significance**

Endemic to SA.<sup>5</sup> The AMLR distribution is part of a limited extant distribution in adjacent regions within SA. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'. Relative to all AMLR extant species, the species' taxonomic uniqueness is classified as 'High'.<sup>3</sup>

**Description**

Low, spreading shrub, less than 1 m high.<sup>1</sup> Leaves clustered on short shoots and are thick and glabrous.<sup>4</sup> Base of flower is mid-green with red or maroon tinge. Petals light purple, partly fused together, 10-12 mm long with orange and dark purple dots on inner sides of the flower.<sup>2</sup>

**Distribution and Population**

In SA occurs in MU and SE regions. May no longer occur in the SL region.<sup>1</sup>

Limited distribution occurring in two disjunct areas: Monarto (near Murray Bridge) and Mount Monster CP in the South East (near Keith).<sup>4,5</sup> A small population also occurs at Barossa Goldfields (K. Brewer and J. Smith *pers. comm.*).

Only known from a few scattered localities and only a few plants are known in each area.<sup>1</sup> The majority of the approximately 2000 plants present within the general Monarto area have been planted. State Flora Murray Bridge planted approximately 1000

plants in 2003 at Rocky Gully Reserve of which around half survived (P. Collins *pers. comm.*).<sup>4</sup>

Plantings have also occurred at Monarto Zoo and on privately-owned land, including a Heritage Agreement area (Jusaitis and Smith 1999, Jusaitis et al. 1998).

Pre-1983 AMLR filtered records indicate a similar historical distribution, with additional records at Mount Barker.<sup>3</sup>

**Habitat**

Occurs on granite outcrops with mallee and/or broombush and wattles.<sup>1,4,5</sup>

Commonly found with *Acacia calamifolia*, *A. nyssophylla*, *A. spinescens*, *A. menzelli*, *Baekkea behrii*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Dodonaea hexandra* and *Pittosporum phylliraeoides* var. *microcarpa*.<sup>4</sup>

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Mallee, Shrubland and Grassy Woodland.<sup>3</sup>

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'High'.<sup>3</sup>

**Biology and Ecology**

Usually flowers from September to November.<sup>1</sup> Collections of flowering material have also been made during January, March and April (Davies 1992).<sup>4</sup>

Impact of fire not thoroughly understood, however plants regenerated after fire on one property in 1988 and seed germination is known to be stimulated by the use of smoked water (Jusaitis and Smith 1999).<sup>4</sup>

**Aboriginal Significance**

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in eastern Ngarrindjeri Nation.<sup>3</sup>

**Threats**

Threats include:

- lack of recruitment; very few young plants are present at both main localities, the known population is also highly fragmented
- habitat degradation due to weeds, e.g. Bridal Creeper, Perennial Veldt Grass and African Boxthorn
- human impacts, e.g. plants on road reserves are under threat from accidental damage or removal

**Further information:**

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region  
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999  
[http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/adelaide\\_bcp/index.html](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/adelaide_bcp/index.html)  
© Department for Environment and Heritage FIS 90346 May 2008



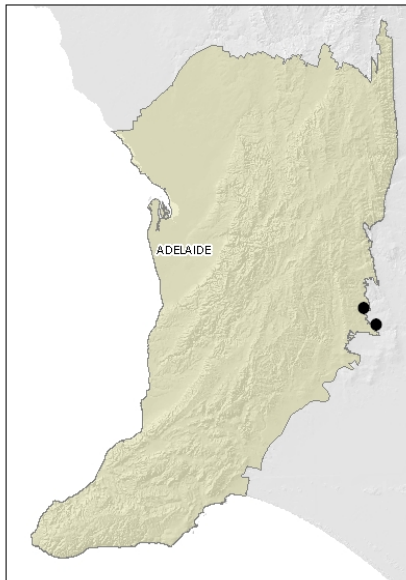


- grazing impact; Rabbits graze the plants heavily and are present at all sites. Grazing by livestock, Kangaroos and Hares is also a threat.<sup>4,5</sup>

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

5 Stubbs, W. (2006). *Threatened Species - Recovery of the Monarto Mintbush - Between a rock and a hard place*. Department of Environment and Heritage, Adelaide. Available from [www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/mintbush.html](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/mintbush.html) (accessed July 2007).

### Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.<sup>3</sup> Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

### References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

1 Department for Environment and Heritage *Electronic Flora of South Australia species Fact Sheet: Prostanthera euryboides* F.Muell. Available from <http://www.flora.sa.gov.au> (accessed July 2007).

2 Department for Environment and Heritage (2005). *Threatened Flora of the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Fact Sheet: Monarto Mintbush Prostanthera euryboides*.

3 Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.

4 Obst, C. (2005). *South Australian Murray Darling Basin Threatened Flora Recovery Plan*. Report to the Threatened Species and Communities Section, Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage, Canberra.

### Further information:

Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Adelaide Region  
Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999

[http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/adelaide\\_bcp/index.html](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/adelaide_bcp/index.html)

© Department for Environment and Heritage FIS 90346 May 2008

Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014

