

Threatened Flora of the South Australian Murray Darling Basin

**Monarto Mintbush** *Prostanthera eurybioides*

**Endangered**

**Description**

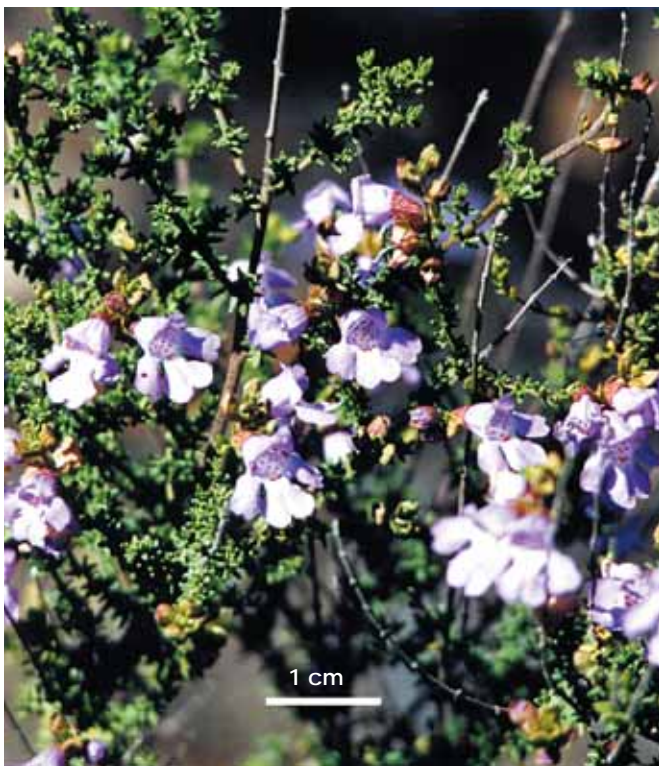
- Spreading shrub <1m high.
- Branches covered in short, curled hairs.
- Leaves are clustered, thick and hairless.
- The base of the flowers is mid-green with a red or maroon tinge.
- The petals are light purple, partly fused together, 10-12 mm long, with orange and dark-purple dots on the inner side of the flower.

**Ecology**

- Flowering occurs from September to November
- Grows on sandy loam and loam soils



Monarto Mintbush in flower.



Close-up of Monarto Mintbush flowers.

**Threats**



size



Rabbit grazing



Stock grazing



Kangaroo grazing



Weed competition



Illegal collection

**Conservation rating**

Monarto Mintbush (*P. eurybioides*) is nationally **endangered** with approximately 690 plants remaining in the South Australian Murray Darling Basin. A smaller population also occurs in the upper South-east of South Australia.

Monarto Mintbush is at particular risk from grazing by rabbits and kangaroos which may be reducing seed set and survival of seedlings. Small population size and a lack of recruitment are also major threats. General weed invasion of habitats is inhibiting seedling germination and survival. Trail bike riding is a concern, along with the possibility that individual plants are being removed by collectors.

## Habitat



Monarto Mintbush growing in a Broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*) tall shrubland.

Monarto mintbush is found in tall shrublands or open woodlands, usually associated with rocky granite outcrops. When present in tall shrublands there are very few overstorey species present. The dominant species that is found in this habitat type is;

- Broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*)

Understorey plants are typically dominated by scattered shrubs over native grasses, lilies and herbs.

When present in an open woodland the dominant overstorey species present include;

- Mallee Box (*Eucalyptus porosa*)
- Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* ssp. *leucoxylon*)
- Beaked Red Mallee (*Eucalyptus socialis*)
- Narrow-leaf Red Mallee (*Eucalyptus leptophylla*)

Understorey plants are typically dominated by scattered shrubs over native grasses, lilies and herbs.

## Distribution

Monarto Mintbush is only found in South Australia, with small populations that are restricted to two separate areas:

- Monarto (near Murray Bridge) - populations are small and are scattered around this general area
- Mount Monster Conservation Park - populations are small and scattered within the park.



Distribution of Monarto Mintbush in the SA Murraylands

## 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 Monarto Mintbush to the contacts listed below.

## Details of contacts

- Biodiversity Conservation Programs, Dept for Environment and Heritage, SA (08) 8222 9422
- Threatened Plant Action Group, 120 Wakefield St, Adelaide, SA 5000 (08) 8223 6301

## Further Information

Biodiversity Conservation Programs  
Department for Environment and Heritage  
Telephone (08) 8222 9422  
[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)

Photos courtesy of C. Obst

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