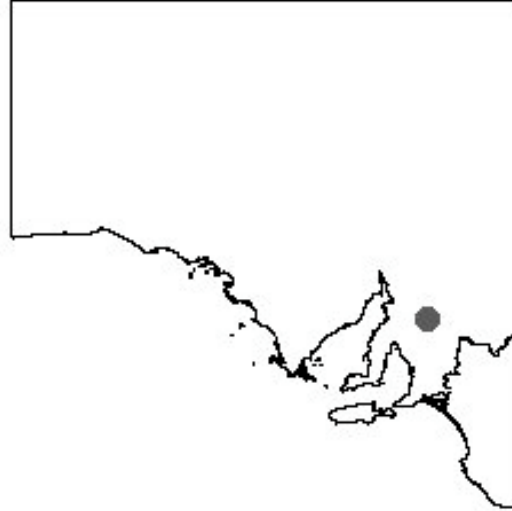


Biological Survey of Mokota Conservation Park

Hyde, M., Davies, R., Steed, Y. and Reynolds, T. (2000). *Mokota Conservation Park, Burra Hills, South Australia: A baseline biodiversity study*. Nature Conservation Society of South Australia Inc.

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 120 Wakefield St
 Adelaide 5000

(www.ncssa.asn.au)



Summary:

Mokota Conservation Park was purchased by the South Australian Government specifically to conserve remnant grassland. The Nature Conservation Society of South Australia Inc and the Threatened Plant Action group of the Threatened Species Network jointly obtained grant funding to create a baseline biodiversity record of the new Park. The work commenced in 1998.

Mokota Conservation Park is the first conservation park in South Australia which is dedicated to the preservation of native tussock grassland vegetation.

The Park is representative of *Lomandra multiflora* spp. *dura* tussock grasslands which are endemic to South Australia and were once widely distributed in the Mount Lofty Block. This community is endangered. Substantial further biological trials and monitoring work needs to be done within the Park to help understand these grassland communities.

- 291 plant species were recorded within the Park. Of these, 199 are native and 92 introduced.
- Of the native plant species present, 57, or 29% of the total have conservation ratings.
- 7 reptile species and 1 amphibian species were recorded. The endangered pygmy bluetongue lizard has not been found despite extensive searching.
- 29 bird species were recorded.
- 5 mammal species were recorded.

12 vegetation survey quadrats were sampled in the park during this project using the methodology of the Biological Survey of South Australia (BS 116) 2 quadrats had been previously recorded during other surveys. A total of 124 taxa were recorded at survey sites, of which 91 are natives. The quadrats ranged in diversity from 22 to 58 taxa (averaging 40), with from 9 to 43 native taxa per site (averaging 25 natives).

Permanent quadrats have been set up to monitor the populations of 2 rare plants. 11 are to monitor populations of nationally endangered small scurf-pea (*Cullen parvum*) and 6 to monitor the trailing hop-bush (*Dodonaea procumbens*).