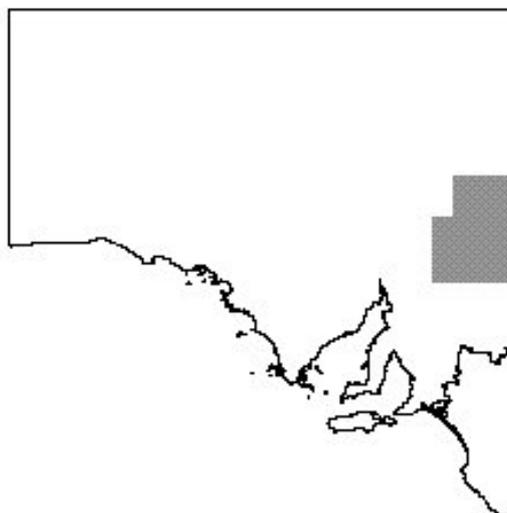


Biological Survey of the North Olary Plains

Playfair, R. M. and Robinson, A. C. (1997). *A Biological Survey of the North Olary Plains, South Australia 1995-1997*. Biological Survey and Research, Natural Resources Group, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Australia

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Comments:

Summary:

From July to September 1995, 381 sites were surveyed in the North Olary Plains area from Yunta in the south and Lake Callabonna in the north, and between the Flinders Ranges and the New South Wales border. General landform information and a complete plant species list was obtained at each site. Subsequent analysis resulted in the description of 29 floristically distinct plant communities in the region, and the production of a map showing their distribution.

9,121 plant records were added to the South Australian Environmental Database, and 1400 specimens lodged with the South Australian State Herbarium. 41 of the plant species recorded were new records for the Eastern Botanical Region of South Australia. *Codonocarpus pyramidalis* and *Acacia carnei*, both of national conservation significance and *Maireana pentagona* and *Malacocera gracilis*, of South Australian conservation significance were recorded.

In September 1996, 48 of the above sites were revisited, and a survey of vertebrates was undertaken using pitfall, Elliot and cage traps, as well as foraging for reptiles and mammals and observing birds. 452 mammal, 1643 bird, 505 reptile and 21 amphibian records were added to the South Australian Environmental Database, and about 450 specimens lodged with the South Australian Museum.

Overall, the survey produced:

- 29 floristic vegetation groups encompassing a total of 448 plant species;
- 22 mammal species listed (8 introduced);
- 125 bird species listed;
- 50 reptile and 2 amphibian species listed;

No vertebrates of conservation significance were recorded, however, significant specimens were added to the South Australian Museum collections and some minor range extensions were noted for some species.

These surveys constitute a component of a complete "Conservation Values Assessment" of the region. At present no conservation reserves are established in this area, and this detailed information will assist in any future decisions to manage any specific sites for conservation purposes.