

Crotalaria cunninghamii

LC

Taxonomic Authority: R.Br.

Global Assessment Regional Assessment

Region: Global

Endemic to region

Synonyms

Common Names

BIRDFLOWER RATTLEPO English
GREEN BIRDFLOWER English
PARROT PEA English
REGAL BIRDFLOWER English

Upper Level Taxonomy

Kingdom: PLANTAE

Phylum: TRACHEOPHYTA

Class: MAGNOLIOPSIDA

Order: FABALES

Family: LEGUMINOSAE

Lower Level Taxonomy

Rank:

Infra- rank name:

Plant Hybrid

Subpopulation:

Authority:

Ornamental species easily recognised by its large green bird-like flowers and grey-tomentose thick soft-wooded stems (Moore 2005). Two subspecies are recognised: *Crotalaria cunninghamii* subsp. *cunninghamii* and subsp. *sturtii*.

General Information

Distribution

Crotalaria cunninghamii is endemic to Australia, distributed in the states of New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland, also in the Northern Territory.

Range Size

Area of Occupancy:

Extent of Occurrence:

Map Status:

Elevation

Upper limit: 900

Lower limit: 0

Depth

Upper limit:

Lower limit:

Depth Zones

Shallow photic Bathyl Hadal
 Photic Abyssal

Biogeographic Realm

Afrotropical
 Antarctic
 Australasian
 Neotropical
 Oceanian
 Palearctic
 Indomalayan
 Nearctic

Population

This plant is a moderately common species widespread in inland areas of Australia, extending into desert regions. Total population size is not known, but a recent survey in 2005 suggests 50 seeding plants from a population in Queensland (MSBP 2010).

Total Population Size

Minimum Population Size:

Maximum Population Size:

Habitat and Ecology

A perennial shrub that grows in sandy soils in shrubland, grassland or savannah woodland; usually on desert dunes, sandplains and drainage lines. Associated with Mulga communities or on unstable sand dunes. It is not grazed by stock and there are no reports of toxicity (Moore 2005).

System	Movement pattern	Crop Wild Relative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Nomadic	<input type="checkbox"/> Is the species a wild relative of a crop?
<input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater	<input type="checkbox"/> Congregatory/Dispersive	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> Migratory	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altitudinally migrant	

Growth Form	Definition
Shrub - large	Perennial shrub (>1m), also termed a Phanerophyte (>1m)

Threats

There are no major threats known to this species, however the area where this species occurs is threatened by habitat degradation (sites with deep sandy soils are susceptible to erosion by rabbits) and grazing (possibly by stock in some areas but may not be a threat; grazed by goats in central Australia).

	Past	Present	Future
1 Habitat Loss/Degradation (human induced)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.1 Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.1.4 Livestock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.5 Invasive alien species (directly impacting habitat)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conservation Measures

It has been classified as Endangered (NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995) in the state of New South Wales where it reaches the southern most point of its range. However, it is widely distributed in other parts of the country occurring in some protected areas. Most notably known from Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Ngaaryatjarra Lands Indigenous Protected Area and Innamicka Regional Reserve. Its seeds have been collected for the Millennium Seed Bank Project, with seed collections stored at: Wakehurst Place, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (UK); Kings Park & Botanic Garden, Perth and Brisbane Botanic Garden, Queensland (Australia).

	In Place	Needed
4 Habitat and site-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4 Protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Species-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.7 Ex situ conservation actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.7.2 Genome resource bank	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Countries of Occurrence

	PRESENCE							ORIGIN				
	Year Round	Breeding Season only	Non-breeding season only	Passage migrant	Possibly extinct	Extinct	Presence uncertain	Native	Introduced	Re-Introduced	Vagrant	Origin uncertain
Australia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New South Wales	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Territory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Queensland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Australia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western Australia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

General Habitats	Score	Description	Major Importance
2 Savanna	1	Suitable	Unset

2.1 Savanna - Dry	1	Suitable	Unset
3 Shrubland	1	Suitable	Unset
3.8 Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1	Suitable	Unset
4 Grassland	1	Suitable	Unset
4.5 Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	1	Suitable	Unset
8 Desert	1	Suitable	Unset
8.2 Desert - Temperate	1	Suitable	Unset

Species Utilisation

Species is not utilised at all

Purpose / Type of Use	Subsistence	National	International
13. Pets/display animals, horticulture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Medicine - human and veterinary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Used by Aboriginal people to treat swellings on the body and as an eyewash. It is also popular in cultivation because of the large coloured flowers (Elliot and Jones 1984).

Trend in the level of wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over the last five years:

Trend in the amount of offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over the last five years:

CITES status: Not listed

IUCN Red Listing

Red List Assessment: (using 2001 IUCN system) Least Concern (LC)

Red List Criteria:

Date Last Seen (only for EX, EW or Possibly EX species):

Is the species Possibly Extinct? Possibly Extinct Candidate?

Rationale for the Red List Assessment

C. cunninghamii is a widespread shrub in inland Australia distributed in sandy soils. Grazing and habitat degradation might threaten some populations of this species. However, this species is listed here as Least Concern because it is widespread in its natural range, it occurs in protected areas and its seeds are stored in three seed banks across the world.

Reason(s) for Change in Red List Category from the Previous Assessment:

- Genuine Change
 - Genuine (recent)
 - Genuine (since first assessment)
- Nongenuine Change
 - New information
 - Taxonomy
 - Criteria Revision
 - Other
 - Knowledge of Criteria
 - Incorrect data used previously
- No Change
 - Same category and criteria
 - Same category but change in criteria

Current Population Trend: Stable

Date of Assessment: 28/06/2010

Name(s) of the Assessor(s): Malcolm, P.

Evaluator(s):

Notes:

% population decline in the past:

Time period over which the past decline has been measured for applying Criterion A or C1 (in years or generations):

% population decline in the future:

Time period over which the future decline has been measured for applying Criterion A or C1 (in years or generations):

Number of Locations:

Severely Fragmented:

Number of Mature Individuals:

Bibliography

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