

Menzel's Wattle

Acacia menzeli



Menzel's Wattle (close-up)

Description

- An erect, compact, rounded and spreading shrub of 1-2m
- Leaves are 1.5-3.5cm long, 1mm in diameter, straight or slightly curved with nearly no point and with 5 or 6 longitudinal resinous veins making leaves feel sticky
- Flowers are simple and axillary, present either as singles or doubles with flower-heads containing 25-30 individual flowers
- Seed pods are linear, 2.5-4.5cm long, 2-3mm broad, curved or slightly twisted, brown and acute at each end
- Seeds have a large, whitish, fleshy aril

Ecology

- A perennial shrub that flowers predominantly between July and October
- Grows on soil types ranging from loams to sandy loams

Conservation rating

Menzel's Wattle is listed as nationally vulnerable. Recent survey work indicates that there are approximately 9000 individual plants remaining in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin.

Threats

- Fragmentation
- Weed competition
- Inappropriate fire regime

The fragmented nature of many Menzel's Wattle populations

and weed competition, particularly from annual grassy weeds and Bridal Creeper are some of the major threats. Further knowledge is required on the ecology, threats and population trends of this species to accurately determine its rate of decline. Several of the larger populations would benefit by inclusion in the government reserve system. Roadside populations are included in the roadside marker scheme programs, managed by local government.

Habitat

Menzel's Wattle occurs in woodland and mallee communities.

The overstorey of woodland habitats is dominated by:

- Mallee Box (*Eucalyptus porosa*)
- Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* ssp. *leucoxylon*)
- Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus odorata*)
- Southern Cypress Pine (*Callitris preissii*)
- Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*)

The overstorey of mallee habitats is dominated by:

- White Mallee (*Eucalyptus phenax* ssp. *phenax*)
- Beaked Red Mallee (*Eucalyptus sociallis*)

There is commonly a midstorey shrub layer within these communities dominated by *Acacia* species and the understorey is dominated by grasses, sedges and small shrubs.



Distribution

Menzel's Wattle is a species endemic to South Australia. Within the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin populations are known to occur in the following areas:

- Murray Bridge
- Monarto

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 pick native flowers, take a photo instead
- Volunteering with NR SAMDB or join your local native vegetation group and help to look after a threatened plant population
- Reporting any sightings of Menzel's Wattle to the contacts listed below

For further information

Natural Resources Centre

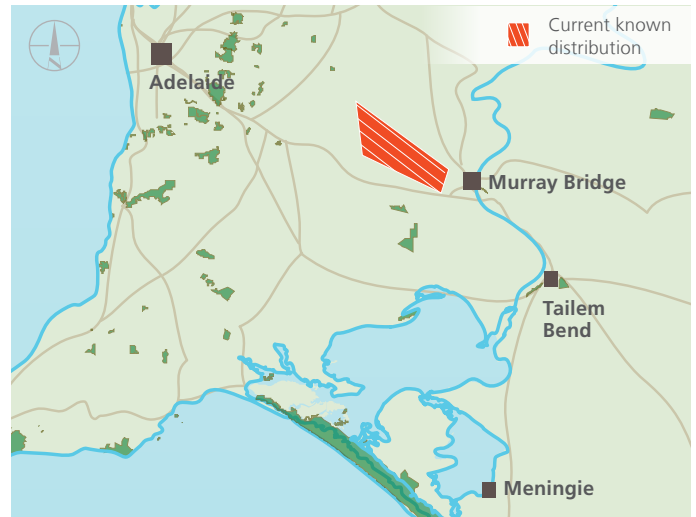
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin

Murray Bridge: (08) 8532 9100

Berri: (08) 8580 1800

E: enquiries-samdb@sa.gov.au

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin



Distribution of Menzel Wattle in the SA MDB



Menzel's Wattle growing in a Mallee Box open woodland

