



PLANT

Eucalyptus paludicola

Mount Compass Swamp Gum

AUS	SA	AMLR	Endemism	Life History
E	E	E	State	Perennial

Family MYRTACEAE



Photo: © J. Quarmby

Conservation Significance

Endemic to SA.⁷ The AMLR distribution is disjunct, isolated from other extant occurrences within SA. Within the AMLR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Very Restricted'.³

Possibly a hybrid between *Eucalyptus cosmophylla* and *E. ovata* with which it usually grows.^{1,2,7} Molecular genetic studies of AMLR populations are being undertaken in 2009 to resolve taxonomic uncertainty (J. Quarmby *pers. comm.* 2009).

Description

Tree to 12 m tall, or mallee to 5 m tall. Dark brown rough bark on the lower trunk, and smooth grey or cream bark on the upper trunk and branches. Usually has clusters of seven large gum nuts, which are cylindrical, conical or bell-shaped. Leaves are broadly lance-shaped.^{1,7}

Distribution and Population

Currently known from two regions in SA, FP and western KI.

Restricted distribution due to highly fragmented sub-populations and the continuing threat of habitat loss. Survival considered precarious.⁷

Post-1983 AMLR filtered records mainly restricted to the Mount Compass and Hindmarsh areas, with isolated records further south-west near Parawa. Further records exist between these areas, not mapped but included in the plan's analysis (held at the Australian National Herbarium, Canberra).³

On the Fleurieu Peninsula much of its former habitat has been cleared and all subpopulations (approximately 15 including KI) are isolated and contain just a few individuals with most occurring in roadside vegetation or on private farmland (Nicolle 2005 *pers. comm.*). Occurs near Waitpinga, east of Myponga and west of Ashbourne, over a linear range of approximately 50 km (Nicolle 1995; State Herbarium of SA 2005).⁷

While there is no definitive evidence of a decline in geographic distribution, it is highly likely it has declined in numbers.⁷

Habitat

Often occurs near swamps and creeklines.⁵ Occurs in low, seasonally swampy areas in AMLR.^{4,6}

Recorded AMLR habitats include:

- Cox Scrub CP: sandy wide creek bed (periodically water-logged site) with *Eucalyptus cosmophylla*, *E. leucoxydon*, *E. fasciculosa*, *E. viminalis* ssp. *cygnetensis*
- Parawa: edge of wet perched peat bog swamp; hillside swamp of Tea Tree taller than *Eucalyptus cosmophylla* but less than *E. baxteri* and *E. obliqua*
- Mount Compass to Victor Harbor road: in creek with *Eucalyptus ovata* and *E. leucoxydon* ssp.
- Nangkita: on upper fringe of swamp in peaty sand; with *Eucalyptus baxteri*, *E. cosmophylla*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* and *Pultenaea daphnoides*; also on roadsides in sand with *Eucalyptus ovata* and *E. cosmophylla*
- Mount Billy (SA Water area): *Eucalyptus baxteri*, *E. cosmophylla* sandy heath with dense yacca and sedge understorey.⁴

Within the AMLR the preferred broad vegetation groups are Heathy Woodland, Wetland and Riparian.³

Further information:

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Phone: (61 8) 8336 0901 Fax: (61 8) 8336 0999
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Prepared as part of the Regional Recovery Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia 2009 - 2014



ADELAIDE AND MOUNT LOFTY RANGES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Threatened Species Profile

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

Within the AMLR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'High'.³

Biology and Ecology

Flowering has been recorded in May, October and December.¹

Aboriginal Significance

Post-1983 records indicate the entire AMLR distribution occurs in southern Ngarrindjeri Nation, bordering Peramangk Nation.³

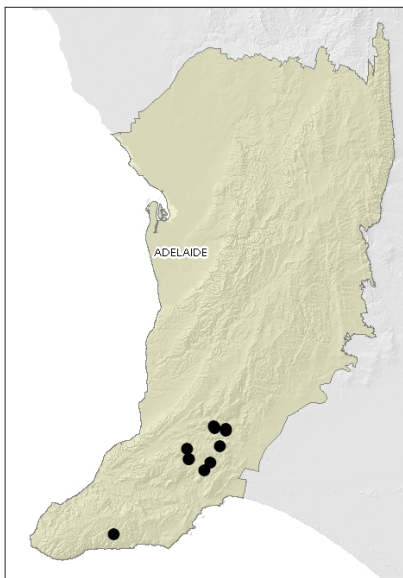
Threats

Habitat loss through accidental destruction or damage during road-works. Weed competition (mainly Blackberries) and altered hydrology (e.g. construction of dams) affect young plants (Taylor and Davies 2005 *pers. comm.*).⁷ Appears to be no recruitment, even in swamps. Grazing by Kangaroos may be an issue.²

Within the AMLR, approximately one third of known distribution occurs within 2 km of confirmed or suspected *Phytophthora* infestations.³

Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

Regional Distribution



Map based on filtered post-1983 records.³ Note, this map does not necessarily represent the actual species' distribution within the AMLR.

References

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).

- 1 Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research (2006). *EUCLID Eucalypts of Australia, Third Edition*. CSIRO. Canberra ACT.
- 2 Department for Environment and Heritage. (2007). Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Expert Flora Workshop, Unpublished Notes. Participants: Bickerton, D., Croft, T., Jury, T., Lang, P., Prescott, A., Quarmby, J. and Smith, K., Adelaide.
- 3 Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Regional Recovery Pilot Project Database*. Unpublished data extracted and edited from BDBSA, SA Herbarium (July 2007) and other sources.
- 4 Department for Environment and Heritage (2007). *State Herbarium of South Australia Database*. Unpublished data, extracted October 2007.
- 5 Department for Environment and Heritage. (2007). Summary of two Wetland Threatened Flora Workshops (unpublished spreadsheet).
- 6 Nicolle, D. (1997). *Eucalypts of South Australia*. Dean Nicolle, Adelaide.
- 7 Threatened Species Scientific Committee (2006). *Commonwealth Listing Advice on Eucalyptus paludicola*. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Canberra (Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/eucalyptus-paludicola-advice.pdf>).

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