

Media Release:

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Find Flora of the Darwin Region Online

Detailed descriptions, illustrations and photographs from the Northern Territory Herbarium's Flora of the Darwin Region (FDR) publication are now available online.

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens and NT Herbarium Director Susan Wills says volumes one and two of this comprehensive publication document more than 800 species, making them a useful tool for environmental consultants, universities, botanists and anyone with an interest in plant identification.

"Works such as FDR are the 'foundation' for undertaking other important scientific works as they highlight the gaps in our knowledge," Ms Wills said.

"The FDR is the first publication that attempts to document the entire flora of the region for over 90 years.

"In documenting the Territory's unique flora, this publication is both a valuable contribution and a necessary resource to enable the identification of weeds and native plant species.

"The ability to accurately identify plants underpins the management of rare and threatened species, as well as of weeds.

"In addition to the identification keys and descriptions, there are illustrated line drawings, many stunning colour photographs and valuable notes on the distribution and habitat."

Along with the projected volumes three and four, the completed publication will document the ferns, gymnosperms – plants such as conifers and cycads with 'naked seeds' – and flowering plants of the broader Darwin region from Daly River to Pine Creek and Kakadu, including the Tiwi Islands.

Of special interest are the gymnosperms, which include the fire-sensitive species *Callitris intratropica*, or Cypress Pine, and the primitive Cycads (a common feature of Top End bushland including *Cycas armstrongii*), which receives special protection as a listed threatened plant species.

The Herbarium is also working on an electronic version of Flora of the Northern Territory, which is scheduled to go online in 2012.

Flora of the Darwin Region, volumes one and two, and other resources can be found online at: http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/plants_herbarium/darwin_flora_online.html.

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Media Note – for more information, contact Susan Wills on 0438 851 077

Images: 1. Editors of FDR volume one, Philip Short, left, and Ian Cowie from the NT Herbarium. 2. *Nelumbo nucifera*. Photo credits: Courtesy NT Herbarium.

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