

THREATENED SPECIES OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



Utricularia dunstaniae

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed.

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Description

Utricularia dunstaniae is a small, annual, terrestrial bladderwort. The inflorescence is erect, solitary, 6-15 cm. The flowers are apparently always solitary. The corolla is flesh-coloured, the lower lobes two with erect filiform appendages 1.5-4 cm long.

Flowering: Mar, Apr.



Utricularia dunstaniae (Photo K. Brennan)

Distribution

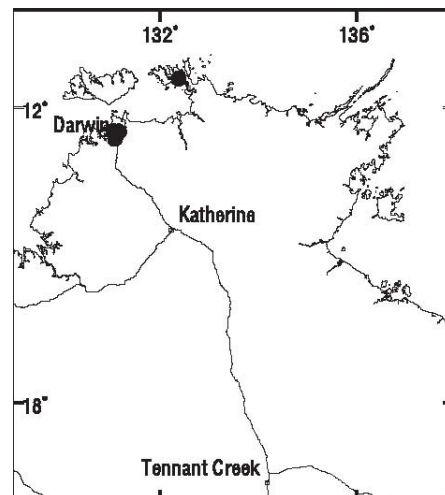
This species is an Australian endemic, known from Western Australia (in the Mitchell Plateau) and the NT. In the NT, it is known from eight collections: these include a single collection from Jabiru (Taylor 1989), one collection from "24 miles S of Darwin" (the McMinns Lagoon area) in 1965, three collections

from the Howard River floodplain (including the type collection), and one collection from the Adelaide River floodplain. The '24 mile' population has not been relocated and is apparently locally extinct. Recent populations have been recorded from Cobourg Peninsula and near Oenpelli.

Conservation reserves where reported:
Garig Gunak Barlu National Park,
Kakadu National Park.

Ecology

The species grows in wet sand, often in shallow water, in *Melaleuca nervosa* woodland or *Verticordia* shrubland. It occurs in slightly wetter micro-habitats than other sympatric *Utricularia* species.



Known locations of *Utricularia dunstaniae*.

Conservation assessment

This species is currently known from only six localities despite extensive surveys in the Darwin rural area (Cowie



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Threatened Species Information Sheet

2002). Two populations are recorded to have 50 individuals each.

This species qualifies as **Vulnerable** (under criteria B2ab(iii); C2a(i), D1 + 2) based on:

- an estimated population size of <1000 mature individuals;
- area of occupancy <2000 km²;
- an inferred decline in area and extent and quality of habitat; and
- an inferred decline in numbers of mature individuals.

Threatening processes

Three of the six known localities are susceptible to disturbance from sandmining, quadbike and motorbike activity, subdivision and potential changes to hydrology (Cowie 2002).

Sand sheets in the Howard River Floodplain have been identified as an extractive mineral resource and a very high proportion of this habitat is likely to be affected by sand mining (Price *et al.* 2005).

Conservation objectives and management

Habitat protection at the known localities is required to maintain the status of the species.

Research priorities are to:

- (i) provide a more detailed assessment of its distribution, habitat requirements and population size;
- (ii) provide an assessment of the factors limiting distribution, and/or threats to its survival.

Further survey may yield additional populations. A monitoring program should be established.

Compiled by

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References

- Cowie, I. (2002). *Preliminary report on a survey of Utricularia (Lentibulariaceae) in the Howard River-Shoal Bay area*. Unpublished report. (Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory, Palmerston.)
- Price, O., Milne, D., and Tynan, C. (2005). Poor recovery of woody vegetation on sand and gravel mines in the Darwin region of the Northern Territory. *Ecological Management and Restoration* **6**, 118-123.
- Taylor, P. (1989). *The Genus Utricularia: a taxonomic monograph*. Kew Bulletin Series XIV. (Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London.)



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