

Action Statement

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

No. 157

Mignonette Leek-orchid *Prasophyllum morganii*

Description and distribution

The Mignonette Leek-orchid *Prasophyllum morganii* Nicholls (also known as the Cobungra Leek-orchid or the Dense Leek-orchid) is endemic to Victoria, occurring in the Victorian Highlands - Northern Fall Bioregion, but known only from the type locality near Cobungra.

No precise records exist to indicate its former distribution, but likely to have been a short-range endemic in the Omeo area. The Mignonette Leek-orchid is probably extinct. It was only known from a single population consisting of fewer than 15 plants at the type locality.

No plants have been seen in recent years; no records exist to indicate its former distribution but it is likely to have been naturally rare with an extremely small population size. The type locality is on private property.

Habitat

The Mignonette Leek-orchid occurs in *Eucalyptus pauciflora* subsp. *pauciflora* open forest at about 1,000 m above sea level (Backhouse and Jeanes 1995). It occurs on the northerly side of a small ridge running down to Spring Creek.

Soil is inclined to be clayey, with a little quartz and sandstone among it (Nicholls 1930). Critical habitat has not been determined.

Conservation status

National conservation status

The Mignonette Leek-orchid has been listed as 'vulnerable' under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

An assessment using the IUCN Criteria has been undertaken and the Mignonette Leek-orchid has been determined to be extinct.

Victorian conservation status

The Mignonette Leek-orchid has been listed as 'threatened' under the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**. The Mignonette Leek-orchid is considered 'presumed extinct' in Victoria (DSE 2005).

Decline and threats

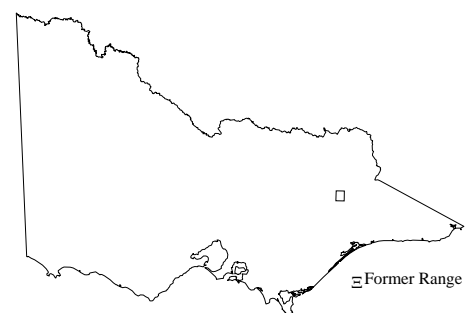
Current threats and estimated impact

Weed invasion

Likely to be high impact - habitat has been improved for pasture.

Grazing:

Extremely high impact - site is grazed by cattle.



Distribution in Victoria
(from *Flora Information System*, NRE 2002)

Inappropriate fire regimes

Probably low impact at present.

Site disturbance

Extremely high impact – habitat altered by ring-barking trees.

Reservation status

Unreserved.

Potential threats and estimated risk

Illegal collection

Low risk – no evidence of collection in the past.

Ecology/biology

Moderate risk – conditions for maintenance of pollinator and fungal activity unknown; small population size.

Other issues

There is strong evidence to indicate that *P. morganii* is extinct. Searches by J. Jeanes and a number of orchid society members, field naturalists and other enthusiasts over the last 10 years have failed to re-locate the known population or any other populations in the area.

Existing conservation measures

Searches have been conducted in the past by a number of individuals.

Conservation objectives

Long term objective

To confirm the conservation status of Mignonette Leek-orchid as extinct.

Objectives of this Action Statement

To confirm the conservation status of Mignonette Leek-orchid as extinct.

Intended management actions

1. Amend conservation status at a national and State level to extinct.

Responsibility: DSE (Biodiversity & Natural Resources Division)

2. Undertake periodic surveys to confirm extinct status.

Responsibility: DSE (Biodiversity & Natural Resources Division, Gippsland Region)

References

Backhouse, G. & Jeanes, J. (1995) *The Orchids of Victoria*. Miegunyah Press Melbourne.

DSE (2005) *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria – 2005*. Department of Sustainability and Environment: East Melbourne. (available on the DSE web site)

DSE (2004) *Flora Information System* (electronic flora database). Department of Sustainability and Environment: Melbourne.

Nicholls, W. H. (1930). A New *Prasophyllum*. *Victorian Naturalist* 46: 179-181.

Consultation

D. Rouse (Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research, Canberra).

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Department of Sustainability and Environment Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Action Statements are available from the Department of Sustainability and Environment website: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>

Compiled by Dr Fiona Coates, Arthur Rylah Institute, Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Further information can be obtained from Department of Sustainability and Environment Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Action Statements are available from the Department of Sustainability and Environment website: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>

This Action Statement has been prepared under section 19 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 under delegation from Chloe Munro, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, October 2002.

© The State of Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2003

Published by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria. 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 Australia

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

ISSN 1448-9902