



**FLORA & FAUNA
GUARANTEE**

FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE - SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON A NOMINATION FOR LISTING

Devonian Limestone Pomaderris Shrubland Community

Date of receipt of the nomination: 24 October 1996
 Date of preliminary recommendation: 9 July 1997
 Date of final recommendation: 1 September 1997

File No.: FF/06/0021

Validity:

The nomination is for a valid item and the prescribed information was provided. The nominated community is accepted by the SAC as a valid community because it is adequately defined and described according to accepted practice, and it is described in such a way as to be distinguished from all other communities.

Structurally Devonian Limestone Pomaderris Shrubland is a low closed shrubland with the dominant shrubs including Limestone Pomaderris *Pomaderris oraria* ssp. *calcicola*, Sticky Hop-bush *Dodonaea viscosa* ssp. *angustifolia* and Tree Violet *Hymenanthera dentata*. There are occasional small emergent trees such as Limestone Blue Wattle *Acacia caerulescens*, Lightwood, *Acacia implexa*, Drooping Sheoke *Allocasuarina verticillata*, Kurrajong *Brachychiton populneus* and Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum*. The community also has a diverse herb layer consisting of Short-stem Sedge *Carex breviculmis*, Barb-wire Grass *Cymbopogon refractus*, Black-fruit Saw-sedge *Gahnia melanocarpa*, Variable Sword-sedge *Lepidosperma laterale*, Long-leaved Wallaby Grass *Danthonia longifolia* Common Wheat-grass *Elymus scaber*, and Kangaroo Grass *Themeda australis*.

The forbs in this community are more diverse than the graminoids with many native and exotic species being represented. The most ubiquitous native forbs are Kidney Weed *Dichondra repens*, Bedstraw *Galium migrans*, Austral Tobacco *Nicotiana suaveolens*, Grassland Wood-sorrel *Oxalis perennans*, the rock specialists Cockspur Flower *Plectranthus parviflorus* and Rough Fireweed *Senecio hispidulus* var. *dissectus* and Forest Nightshade *Solanum prinophyllum*.

Eligibility for listing as a community under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee

The nominated item satisfies at least one criterion of the set of criteria prepared and maintained under Section 11 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, and stated in Schedule 1 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 1991.

Evidence that criteria are satisfied:

Criterion 2.2 *The community is significantly prone to future threats which are likely to result in extinction.*

Evidence:

Threats to remnants include weed invasion, further fragmentation, inappropriate tree and shrub planting, grazing by stock and overgrazing by native herbivores, clearing for agriculture and inappropriate burning regimes.

Sub-criterion 2.2.1 *The community is very rare in terms of the total area it covers or it has a very restricted distribution or it has been recorded from only a few localities.*

Evidence:

The Devonian Limestone Pomaderris Shrubland Community is highly restricted in the Karst landscape of the Buchan Murrindal district. The community is confined to dry situations associated with steep limestone areas on the crests of cliffs and the basal screes that develop in conjunction with streams. Only three stands are known from public land at the Anticline and the Pyramids (Caves Reserves) and in the Snowy River National Park at Jacksons Crossing, as well as a few sites on private land on cliffs associated with the Buchan and Murrindal River valleys. It is estimated that less than 20 ha of the community currently exists.

The data presented on distribution and abundance are the result of comprehensive surveys and provide clear and strong evidence that the community is rare in terms of abundance and distribution.

Additional Information

Populations of rare or threatened species (CNR 1994) occurring in this community include:

- Limestone Blue Wattle *Acacia caerulescens* (Vulnerable in Victoria and Australia).
- Common Splenwort *Asplenium trichomanes* ssp. *quadrivalens* (Rare in Victoria).
- Slender Tick-trefoil *Desmodium varians* (Rare in Victoria).
- Limestone Pomaderris *Pomaderris oraria* ssp. *calcicola* (Rare in Victoria and Australia).
- Delicate New Holland Daisy *Vittadinia tenuissima* (Vulnerable in Victoria).

Advertisement for public comment

In accordance with the requirements of Section 14 of the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**, the preliminary recommendation was advertised for a period of at least 30 days.

The preliminary recommendation was advertised in:

- “The Age” - on 23 July 1997
- “The Weekly Times” - on 23 July 1997
- “The Bairnsdale Advertiser” - 21 July 1997
- “The Snowy River Mail” - 23 July 1997
- The *Government Gazette* - on 24 July 1997

Submissions closed on 29 August 1997.

Further evidence provided:

No public comments were received by the Scientific Advisory Committee.

No evidence was provided to warrant a review of the Scientific Advisory Committee's preliminary recommendation that the community is eligible for listing.

Documentation

The published information and research data provided to the SAC has been assessed. To the best of their knowledge, the SAC believes that the data presented are not the subject of scientific dispute and the inferences drawn are reasonable and well supported.

Final Recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Committee

The Scientific Advisory Committee concludes that on the evidence available the nominated item is eligible for listing in accordance with Section 11(1) of the Act because primary criterion 2.2 is satisfied.

The SAC also concludes that sub-criterion 2.2.1 has been satisfied and that no evidence exists to suggest that primary criterion 2.2 cannot be satisfied as a consequence of sub-criterion 2.2.1 being satisfied.

The Scientific Advisory Committee recommends that the nominated item be supported for listing on Schedule 2 of the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**.

Selected references:

- CNR (1994) *Victorian Flora Species List (including vascular and non-vascular taxa)*. Flora Section, Flora and Fauna Branch, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Victoria.
- Gullan, P. K., Cheal, D. C. & Walsh, N. G. (1990) *Rare or threatened plants in Victoria*. Department of Conservation and Environment, Melbourne
- Joint Commonwealth and Victorian Regional Forest Agreement Steering Committee (1996) East Gippsland Comprehensive Regional Assessment. *Environment and Heritage Report*. Commonwealth of Australia.

Endorsement by the Convenor of the Scientific Advisory Committee**Date**


Dr. David Macmillan
Convenor

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