



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Mountain trachymene

Trachymene scapigera

Endangered

Mountain trachymene (*Trachymene scapigera*) is a robust herb that grows to the height of 20 centimetres with flowerheads that can reach up to 30 centimetres above that height. White to pinkish flowers appear from December to March with the ripened small red-brown fruit developing in autumn.

The species occurs on the Central Tablelands south east of Oberon. There are four known sites in Gurnang State Forest, Kanangra-Boyd National Park and near Jenolan Caves.

The associated vegetation at known sites varies from riverine forest and tea-tree thickets to tall forest, to frost hollows and includes the following species: mountain gum, black Sally, brown barrel, snow gum, candlebark, blackwood and river tea-tree.

Despite being perennial, the above-ground parts of this herb die back over winter after the leaves turn brown. There is a total foliage loss for many patches around July to August.

By October, regrowth of the foliage has commenced and seedlings emerge.

Mountain trachymene flowers from December until March, with seed dispersing from April to May. Seed viability declines rapidly after dispersal, with almost no viable seed remaining after 12 months.

All known locations of mountain trachymene are within an area of 25 x 20 kilometres within the south eastern corner of the Oberon Shire.

This species also reproduces clonally via rhizomes, often leading to the formation of dense mats or patches of plants.

At some locations, the plant can be locally common. For example, there are several hundred plants along a 3 kilometre stretch of the Tuglow River. Other sites have only a few plants.

Support local action and help save the mountain trachymene



Mountain trachymene (*Trachymene scapigera*)
Photo: Huw Evans/DPIE



Mountain trachymene fruits (*Trachymene scapigera*)
Photo: Huw Evans/DPIE

Mountain trachymene is endangered in NSW predominately due to its limited distribution.

The threats to this species include:

- invasion and competition from various woody and herbaceous weed species, including blackberry and pine
- erosion and sedimentation smothering populations
- inappropriate tracking/road building and changes to hydrology as a result of creek crossings and tracks
- disturbance via recreational use (camping, etc.)
- grazing, which may be a threat because it reduces recruitment and rates of establishment.

Saving our Species (SoS) is working in partnership with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, National Parks and Wildlife Service and a wide range of other organisations and private landowners to save the mountain trachymene.

Three priority management sites have been identified in the Oberon region of New South Wales: Tuglow River, Boyd Crossing and Long Flat Creek.



Mountain trachymene (*Trachymene scapigera*)
Photo: Terry Mazzer/DPIE

The recovery effort aims to:

- control woody and herbaceous weeds which compete for space
- Manage habitat in the form of fencing or relocation of camping grounds if it becomes apparent that human disturbance and/or overgrazing poses an ongoing threat to this species
- monitor the species to further clarify ongoing threats.

SoS is a NSW Government flagship program targeting on-ground action to secure threatened plants and animals from extinction. The program aims to increase the number of species that can survive securely in the wild.

SoS can only succeed if we work together. We need your support to ensure that today's actions help to secure the future of NSW's threatened species.

Find out more about threatened species in New South Wales and the SoS program at environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS

You too can help

To support the ongoing success of the recovery of the mountain trachymene you can report sightings of this species to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, National Parks and Wildlife Service or Central Tablelands Local Land Services.