

Top End



Native Plant Society

May 2016 Newsletter

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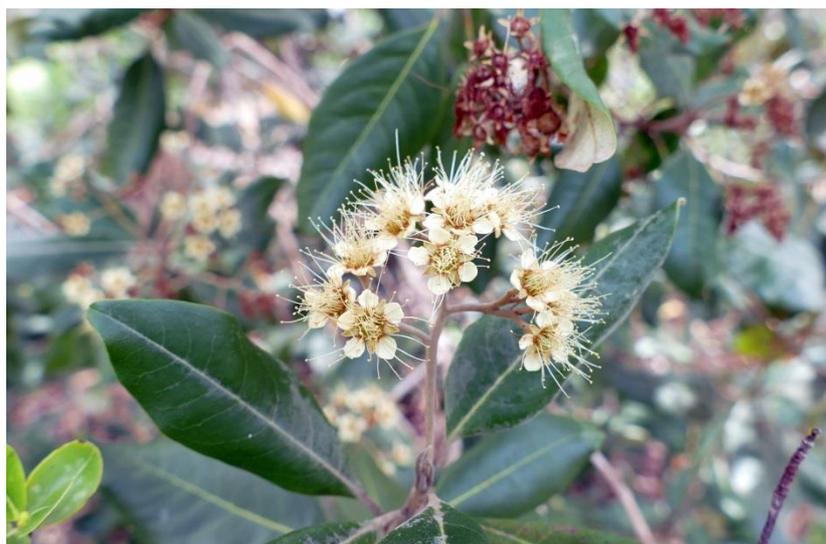
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General Meeting Times

The next TENPS meeting will be held on *Thursday May 19th 2016*. Meetings are usually held at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month at Marrara Christian College, on the corner of Amy Johnson Avenue and McMillans Road. The meeting is followed by a chance to chat with other members and access the TENPS reference Library over a cuppa. Bring your plants along to swap, sell or have identified. The guest speaker presentation commences around 8pm. All are welcome.

Field trips are usually on the weekend following the meeting. Details of upcoming events are provided in the newsletter, or check the TENPS website.

What's in Flower?



Xanthostemon psidioides photographed by Russell Dempster at Millner during the April TENGO event.

Natives mean more!

www.topendnativeplants.org.au

Upcoming TENPS meetings

May 19th: Sean Bellairs - "Re-establishment of native vegetation following disturbance on the Howard Sand Plains"

June 16th: Nick Cuff - Heath vegetation in north Queensland.

July 21st: TBA

November 17th - Ian Morris - TBA

TENPS Field Trips & other events

May, Sunday 29th: TENGO - 150 Woodcote Cresceton Girraween. Visit this rural property in Girraween is located on the edge of the Howard sand plain and the rear of the property showcases a great display of flowering sand sheet herbs, whilst the front part features a multipurpose garden.

July, Sunday 10th: TENGO - 15 Melaleuca Road Howard Springs

August, 13-14th: The Tropical Garden Fair at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens (*this new event is being planned to replace the Tropical Garden Spectacular which has now ceased.*)

NT Field Naturalist Club Events

Meetings are held at 7.45pm on the second Wednesday of each month except January in the Function Room, Level 3, Red Precinct 1 at Charles Darwin University Casuarina Campus.

Field Trips are a great way to explore the best of Darwin area's nature spots in the company of like-minded people. These are usually held on the Sunday following the monthly meeting and often related to the topic of this meeting. Additional outings are held from time to time, and everyone is welcome.

May Field Trip: Sunday May 15th - Bird watching at Corroboree Billabong with John Rawsthorne 7:00 am to ~ 12 noon.

TENPS joins the social media age!

We now have a member's only TENPS Facebook group. This group can be used for discussions about plants, propagation, identification, and anything else that might be of interest to TENPS members. The address is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1700126753589264>

To join the group, go to the group page and click on the button which says "Join Group" and an administrator will check that you're a society member and add you to the group. Please note that if your Facebook name is different from the name you joined the society with, you'll need to email and let us know at topendnativeplantsociety@hotmail.com



We also have a public Facebook page (above) for news, events, photos, and other interesting items. The address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/topendnativeplants>

Contributions are very welcome - the best way to submit photos etc is via the "Message" button at the top of the page. You can also submit items by email to topendnativeplantsociety@hotmail.com, or by posting it to the Facebook group if you are already a member.

Article by Will Kemp

TENPS Committee Meeting

Committee meetings are held every second month and members are most welcome to attend. The next committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st June, at Drysdale Electorate Office, Palmerston.



Gomphrena canescens photographed by Russell Dempster at the TENGO garden opening in Millner in April.

April Meeting Report - Threatened Species of the NT by Brydie Hill.

Brydie Hill discussed the threatened species work carried out by the Flora and Fauna Division, NT Department of Land Resource Management. Her presentation included an overview of the process of assessing whether species are threatened, an overview of the number of species that are threatened in the NT, and the Threatened Species Review process. There are several ways for TENPS members to assist and contribute.

Threatened species are those that are most vulnerable to extinction and they are protected under legislation, including the Commonwealth Government EPBC Act and the NT Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act. Species are assessed according to International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria, which consider the size of the population, the range of the species and whether the population is stable or declining. The classification rating for risk of the species becoming extinct ranges from:

- EX (extinct)
- EW (extinct in the wild)
- CR (critically endangered)
- EN (endangered)
- VU (vulnerable)
- NT (near threatened)
- LC (Least concern)

Some species do not have enough known about their population sizes or dynamics to evaluate them and are assessed as DD (data deficient).

More information on the classification system is at:

<https://nt.gov.au/environment/animals/classification-of-wildlife>

Group	EX	EW	CR	EN	VU	Total threatened
Mammals	16	1	4	8	13	25
Birds	2		5	3	19	27
Reptiles			1	3	12	16
Frogs					1	1
Invertebrates			2	4	25	31
Plants			3	24	54	81
Total	18	1	15	42	124	181
Fish*				1	7	8

Sixteen mammal and two bird species are extinct in the Northern Territory and one mammal species is extinct in the wild but maintained in captivity. Of the 4515 NT native plant species, 3 are critically endangered, 24 are endangered and 54 are vulnerable to extinction. Thus a total of 81 plant species are known to be threatened in the NT, compared to 1292 listed nationally. However 862 NT plant species are not known well enough to evaluate and are assessed as data deficient.

More information on the individual threatened plant species of the NT is available at:

<https://nt.gov.au/environment/native-plants/threatened-plants>

To date the Commonwealth and the various state and territory listings of threatened species have not been consistent. A species may be threatened in WA but be common in the NT, for example. However the NT has signed an MOU with the Commonwealth and other states to adopt a uniform listing for threatened species across Australia. For endemic NT species the current NT listing will apply but perhaps there will be some challenges in integrating the system for other species. There are also very limited resources for evaluating, managing and conserving native species.

Therefore the NT has to prioritise species and does so according to the risk of extinction, the consequences of extinction and the cultural and social value of the species. CR or EN species would get higher priority than VU classified species. However a species which is needed by other species and so extinction would have wider impacts or a species which was found only in the NT has greater consequences and so would also have a higher priority. In deciding

on recovery actions the potential for recovery is also considered.

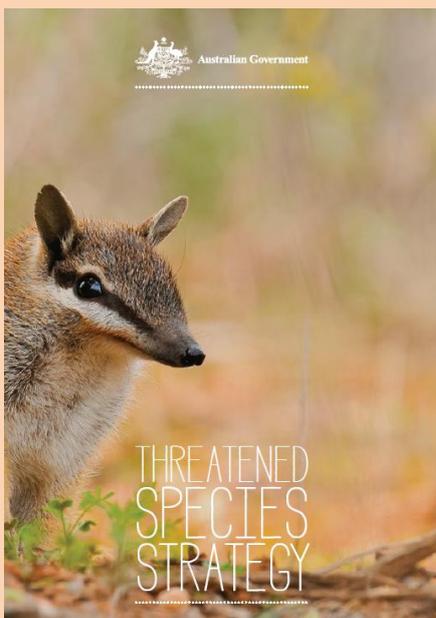
A review of the NT threatened species occurs about every 4 to 5 years. The next review is to occur very soon. As a result of changes in knowledge about a species or changes in the sizes of populations then the conservation rating could be changed. Public comment will be sought.

Much work is needed to increase knowledge of population sizes and detection of population changes, especially given the large number of data deficient species. Information on new populations of threatened species would be very welcome. There are two easy ways of doing so. One is by submitting a species record to the Atlas of Living Australia website: <http://www.ala.org.au/get-involved/> The other way is to report the sighting to the TENPS Committee who can then assist.

Thanks to Brydie Hill for a very thorough, informative and engaging look at NT threatened species.

*Article by Sean Bellairs
Pictures supplied by Brydie Hill.*

For more information on you can also download the National Threatened Species Strategy.



<http://www.abc.net.au/cm/lb/6625868/data/federal-threatened-species-strategy-data.pdf>



Crotonia sp. photographed by Russell Dempster at the TENGO garden opening in Millner in April.

ANPSA visitors

Don't forget there is still another opportunity to meet with visiting ANPSA members.

Jane Fountain, Nicky Zanen and others are keen to meet with TENPS members on the evening of **Friday May 27th** for drinks or dinner if anyone is available.

For more information or if you are available to share some time with these visitors please contact Ingrid Nadjarian on 0439906094 or email ingridnadjarian@hotmail.com



Fagraea racemosa photographed in April by Sarah Hirst at Robyn Falls.

May Field Trip: Howard Sand Plains Open Day.

On Saturday May 14 several TENPS members joined about 60 others at the Humpty Doo Golf Club for the open day on the Howards Sand Plains jointly hosted by TENPS and Greening Australia.

A stroll across the golf course and out on to the sand plains was enjoyed by all. As Emma said in her introduction, we really needed to get down amongst things whilst searching for small plants, particularly the carnivorous herbs, to appreciate the amazing diversity of this habitat. It was especially good to find the tiny threatened herb *Utricularia dunstaniae* again this year despite such a poor wet season.

There was also a series of excellent short talks throughout the morning walk on a range of subjects including:

- Welcome and weed mapping on the Howard Sand Plains by Emma Lupin from Greening Australia.
- Sand plain biodiversity and the Howard River Site of Conservation Significance by Dave Liddle of DLRM.
- Carnivorous *Utricularia* species and other sand sheet heath vegetation by Ian Cowie from the NT Herbarium.
- Geology and hydrology by David George of Power Water.
- Sand mining rehabilitation trials by Sean Bellairs of CDU.
- Howard Toadlet surveys by Ann Grattidge.

Emma had arranged a BBQ lunch for those who could stay and chat or share stories with others participants.

A huge thanks to Emma and Dave for organising such a great day out.

Article by Sarah Hirst.



Uraria lagopodioides photographed by Sarah Hirst at Burrell Creek.



Lindernia plantaginea photographed by Sarah Hirst at Burrell Creek.



Polygala orbicularis photographed by Sarah Hirst at Burrell Creek during a Land for Wildlife field trip in early April.

