

# Threatened species of the Northern Territory

## *Endiandra limnophila*

### Conservation status

#### Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

#### Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

### Description

*Endiandra limnophila* is a tree to 20 m tall and 30 cm diameter at breast height, but usually smaller. Its leaves are glossy, somewhat bluish (glaucous) below, with domatia present. The flowers are pale green to cream, turning brown with age, perfumed or odourless. The fruits are black and glaucous, 28-38 mm long, 14-15 mm diameter<sup>1</sup>.

Flowering: December.

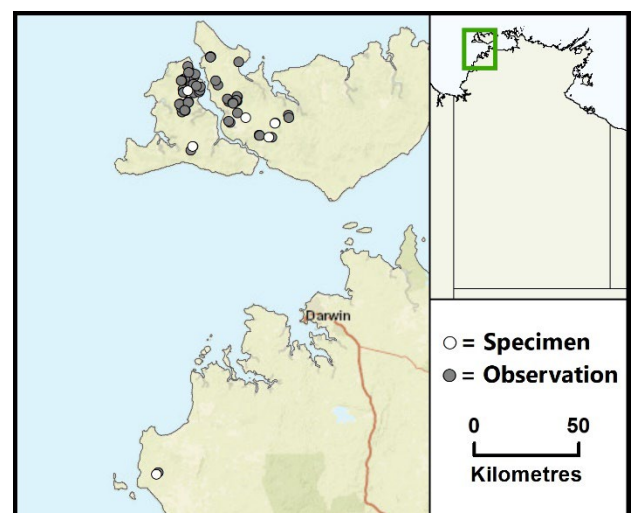
### Distribution

An Australian endemic, known from the far north of Cape York Peninsula and the Northern Territory (NT). In the NT, it is known from the Tiwi Islands and Channel Point. It was recorded in the Rainforest Atlas<sup>2</sup> at approximately 22 places.

NT conservation reserves where reported: None



Credit: D.T. Liddle



Caption: Known locations of *Endiandra limnophila* in the NT ([nrmmaps.nt.gov.au](http://nrmmaps.nt.gov.au))

### Ecology

This species grows in well-developed rainforest. It is normally found on swampy or wet situations along creek margins.

## Threatening processes

A restricted distribution and small number of plants makes this species susceptible to stochastic events. Known localities on Bathurst Island have high pig populations that may affect recruitment. As it occurs only in spring-fed, evergreen rainforests, this species is vulnerable to the effects of ground water drawdown, coupled with grassy weed invasion and intensified fire regimes. Continuing development of intensive, irrigated horticulture may greatly increase the demand for groundwater for irrigation<sup>3</sup>, potentially affecting rainforest patches.

## Conservation objectives and management

A Recovery Plan for the threatened species of the Tiwi Islands was released in 2008 and many actions have been implemented<sup>4,5</sup>.

Research is required to establish population status, the extent of its distribution and the impact of feral animals. Fencing is not practical for these areas. A monitoring program to assess demographic change and response to threats should be established for at least some sites.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Hyland, B.P.M., and Whiffin, T. 1993. *Australian Tropical Rain Forest Trees*. An interactive system Volume 2. (CSIRO Publications, Melbourne.)

<sup>2</sup> Liddle, D.T., Russell-Smith, J., Brock, J., Leach, G.J., and Connors, G.T. 1994. *Atlas of the vascular rainforest plants of the Northern Territory*. Flora of Australia Supplementary Series No. 3, (Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra.)

<sup>3</sup> Department of Land Resource Management 2015. Tiwi Island Economic Development - Bio-Physical Resources of North East Bathurst Island (Technical Report). Technical Report Number 12/2014/D Department of Land Resource Management, Darwin, Northern Territory.

<sup>4</sup> Liddle DT and Elliott LP. 2008. Tiwi Island threatened plants 2006 to 2008: field survey, population monitoring including establishment of a program to investigate the impact of pigs, and weed control. Report to Natural Resource Management Board (NT), NHT Project 2005/142, Northern Territory Government Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport, Palmerston.

<sup>5</sup> Woinarski, J., Brennan, K., Cowie, I., Kerrigan, R., and Hempel, C. 2003. *Biodiversity conservation on the Tiwi islands, Northern Territory. Part 1. Plants and environments*. 144 pp. (Department of Infrastructure Planning and Environment, Darwin.)