

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

Hernandia nymphaeifolia

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable



Description

Hernandia nymphaeifolia is a shrub or tree 5-22 m high. The leaves are peltately attached, narrowly or broadly ovate or subcircular. The 5-9 veins are palmate. The flowers are greenish or white, fragrant, with male and female separate. The fruit is fleshy, waxy white or reddish.

Flowering: Mar.

Fruiting: Jun – Jul.

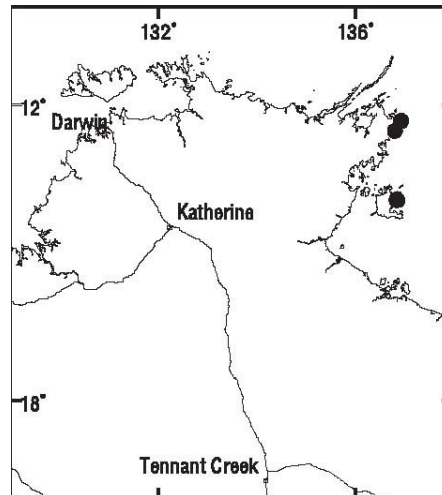
Distribution

This species occurs throughout the tropics (Duyfjes 1996). In the Northern Territory, it is known only from Groote Eylandt and Port Bradshaw in northeast Arnhem Land.

Conservation reserves where reported:
None.

Ecology

This species occurs exclusively in coastal areas: along the sea-shore in littoral forest and in coastal swamps.



Known locations of *Hernandia nymphaeifolia*.

Conservation assessment

This species was difficult to code. The number of plants present in forests where it was collected indicates the species is reproducing in the region and therefore does not qualify as a vagrant or visitor. The species satisfies the criteria for Endangered based on number of individuals estimated to be <250. However, as a coastal species with potential for immigration it is listed as **Vulnerable** (under criteria D1+2).

Threatening processes

The species is susceptible to stochastic events such as cyclones.

Conservation objectives and management

Further survey work in coastal rainforests may yield additional populations. Collection of propagation material and translocation to botanic gardens may be the only option for protection of the species against cyclonic events.

Compiled by

Raelee Kerrigan
Ian Cowie
[April 2006]

References

Duyfjes, B.E.E. (1996). Hernandiaceae.
Flora Malesiana (Ser.1) **12**, 737- 761.