

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

BIRDS NEST WATTLE

Acacia pickardii

Conservation status

Australia: Vulnerable

Northern Territory: Near Threatened



Photo: C. Spencer

Description

Acacia pickardii is a shrub or small tree 3-5 m high. The stipules are spinose and the inflorescence globular. It is distinguished within the *A. victoriae* group by its sharp cylindrical foliage (phyllodes).

Galls, produced by thrips, are common on the leaves of this species. These can be confused as fruit by inexperienced observers.

Flowering: August-November.

Fruiting is very rare and the species reproduces mainly by root suckering.



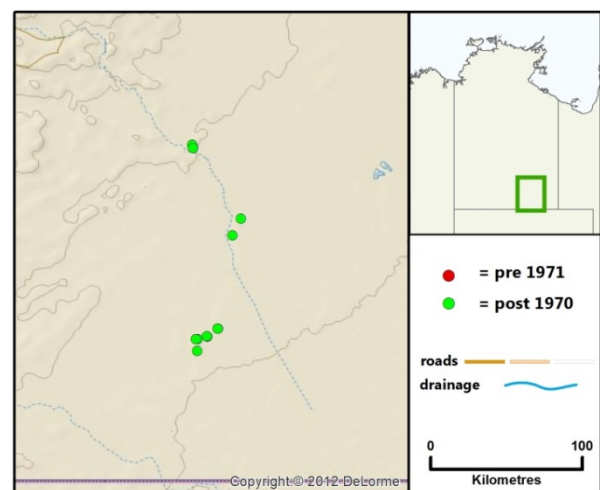
Acacia pickardii (whole plant & habitat)
(Photo: C. Spencer)

Distribution

In the Northern Territory (NT), *Acacia pickardii* is known from two small, and one larger, populations on the edge of the Simpson Desert (White *et al.* 2000; Maslin 2001). One

of these is just outside, the Mac Clark (*Acacia peuce*) reserve. In South Australia, the species is known from three locations; two in the vicinity of Mt Gason and the third north of Lake Etamunbanie (Pandie Pandie Pastoral Lease). The western and northern limits of this species' known range occur within the NT.

Conservation reserves where reported:
None.



Known locations of *Acacia pickardii*.

Ecology

Acacia pickardii typically grows on gibber-covered sandplains and stony rises and low hills, including mesas and tablelands, and adjacent flats. The species usually forms a low woodland or low open-woodland with an

understorey dominated by either open chenopod-shrubland or open-grassland.

Conservation assessment

This species is rare in the NT. Its conservation status here approaches Vulnerable (under criteria B2a and D2) based on:

- area of occupancy <20 km²; and
- severely fragmented or known to exist at no more than ten locations.

However, there is no evidence of decline or of extreme fluctuations and there are presently no known threats that could drive this species to Critically Endangered or Extinct in a very short time. As a consequence, the species is classified in the NT as **Near Threatened**.

Threatening processes

There are no clear threatening processes operating on this species in the NT.

Conservation objectives and management

A national recovery plan for threatened arid zone Acacias has been prepared by the Territory Government together with other state agencies (Nano *et al.* 2006). The plan covers *Acacia pickardii*.

Actions 1, 3 and 8 of the National Recovery Plan for this species have been implemented (Nano *et al.* 2008). Targeted surveys have increased the known extent of this species and the NT populations are now mapped. A monitoring programme is established to quantify population and threat trends. Indigenous ecological knowledge has been documented and Indigenous people have expressed a strong desire to be involved in the conservation of this species.

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References

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