

# Threatened species of the Northern Territory

## Minnie daisy

### *Minuria tridens*

#### Conservation status

##### Australia: Vulnerable

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

##### Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976



#### Description

*Minuria tridens* is a perennial subshrub to 30 cm high. The ray florets have lilac ligules, the disc florets are yellow.

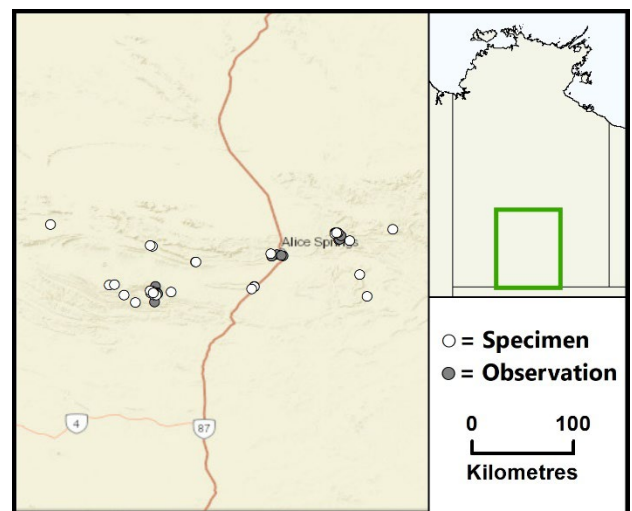
Flowering: February to March, May to October, and December.

Fruiting: February to March, May, July, September and December.



#### Distribution

Apart from a single occurrence in the Murchison Bioregion of Western Australia, *Minuria tridens* is restricted to the arid southern region of the Northern Territory (NT)<sup>1</sup>. The majority of records are from the MacDonnell Ranges Bioregion, with one other in the Simpson-Strzelecki Dunefields Bioregion. The relationship between the WA population and the NT populations is under review.



Caption: Known locations of Minnie Daisy in the NT ([nrmmaps.nt.gov.au](http://nrmmaps.nt.gov.au))

In the NT, the latitudinal range of this species is 71 km and the longitudinal range is 310 km. Its western limit is on Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust and its eastern limit is on Loves Creek Pastoral Station. The known NT distribution of *M. tridens* extends approximately 200 km west of Alice Springs and 100 km east of Alice Springs<sup>1</sup>. The total area of occupancy in the NT is estimated to be <2 000 km<sup>2</sup>.

NT conservation reserves where reported: Finke Gorge National Park, Trephina Gorge National Park and West MacDonnell/Tjoritja National Park.

## Ecology and life-history

This daisy occurs on dolomite, limestone and calcrete impregnated sandstone hills, rises and ranges. It is typically found on southerly aspects in low shrublands dominated by species such as *Acacia kempeana*, *Senna artemisioides* and/or *Indigofera leucotricha*. *Triodia* species are absent from most locations. Low seed set appears characterise this species<sup>1</sup>.

## Threatening processes

*Minuria tridens* is threatened by Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) invasion into core habitat areas. The Alice Springs Municipality sites are most severely affected<sup>2</sup>.

*M. tridens* is variously exposed to wildfire. While this species can resprout, its population-level fire response is poorly known<sup>2</sup>. It is likely facing increased levels of fire exposure with ongoing incursions of Buffel Grass into its habitat<sup>2</sup>.

Stands of *M. tridens* in the Alice Springs municipality are potentially threatened by urban and rural development. Increased disturbance associated with house and road construction will potentially facilitate the spread of Buffel Grass into *M. tridens* habitat<sup>2</sup>.

*Minuria tridens* is also potentially threatened by a range of processes associated with stock production on pastoral land. Trampling of seedlings and soil disturbance by cattle are potential concerns.

Changed climate, particularly more frequent, prolonged drought will likely cause increased adult morality and lower recruitment rates in this species.

## Conservation objectives and management

The national recovery plan for this species<sup>2</sup> has expired and a Conservation Advice Document is in preparation. Priority management activities are surveying and mapping; monitoring at selected sites; habitat restoration where Buffel grass has invaded; fire management at high risk sites; taxonomic research, and protection from urban development.

## References

<sup>1</sup> White, M., Albrecht, D., Duguid, A., Latz, P., and Hamilton, M. 2000. *Plant species and sites of botanical significance in the southern bioregions of the Northern Territory; Volume 1: significant vascular plants*. A report to the Australian Heritage Commission. (Arid Lands Environment Centre, Alice Springs.)

<sup>2</sup> Nano, C. and Pavey, C. 2008. National Recovery Plan for *Olearia macdonnellensis*, *Minuria tridens* (Minnie Daisy) and *Actinotus schwarzii* (Desert Flannel Flower). Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport, Northern Territory