

Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Tarennoidea wallichii

Conservation status

Australia: Not Listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Territory: Endangered

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

Description

Tarennoidea wallichii is a small tree to 5 m, with smooth grey bark, elsewhere to 20 m. Its leaves are opposite with interpetiolar stipules, dark green, glossy. The domatia have fringing hairs. The flowers are white and relatively showy. Berry ovoid to subglobose, 7–18 mm in diameter, glabrous¹.

Flowering: October.

Fruiting: July, October.

Distribution

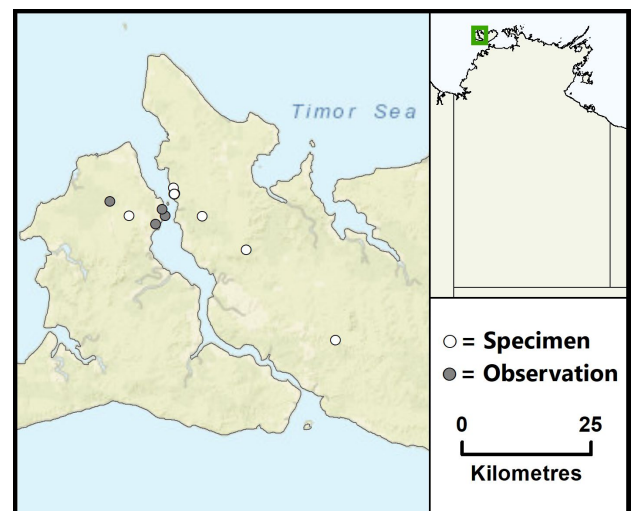
This species is widespread in Malesia, extending as far as India and southern China. In Australia, it is known only from a small number of monsoon rainforest patches on Melville and Bathurst islands.

In the Northern Territory (NT), this species has been recorded in nine rainforest patches, with five on Melville Island and four on adjacent parts of Bathurst Island^{2,3,4,5,6}.

NT conservation reserves where reported: None.



Credit: I.D. Cowie



Caption: Known locations of *Tarennoidea wallichii* in the NT (nrmmaps.nt.gov.au)

Ecology

It occurs in better-drained parts of evergreen spring-fed monsoon rainforests. The number of individual plants per patch recorded during survey work have been consistently very small, mostly consisting of less than eight individuals and often only juveniles^{2,4}.

Threatening processes

The small patch size makes this species susceptible to stochastic events such as cyclones and fire. The maintenance of this species depends upon the retention of the Tiwi rainforest network and control of the impact of feral animals in this environment, as well as moderation of the impacts of fire, grassy weed invasion and intensive development in adjacent habitats. The locality at Garden Point is on the margin of the rainforest adjacent to cleared, disturbed land on the edge of a settlement. It is vulnerable to rainforest edge effects particularly weed invasion and fire, as well as accidental clearing or disturbance such as through the unplanned dumping of rubbish. Climate change and rising sea levels are a threat to some localities.

Conservation objectives and management

A Recovery Plan for the threatened plants species on the Tiwi Islands was released in 2007, and many of its have been implemented.

Research into the status of the population is required. Collection of propagation material and translocation to botanic gardens could assist in protecting this species *ex situ* from cyclonic events. A monitoring program should be established for at least representative localities.

References

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- ² Cowie ID, Cuff N, Liddle DT, and Russell-Smith J 2014. Appendix 7A. 44. Unpublished report to Dept Land Resource Management.
- ³ Fensham, R.J., and Woinarski, J.C.Z. 1992. *Yawulama: the ecology and conservation of monsoon forest on the Tiwi Islands, Northern Territory*. Report to DASET. (Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, Darwin.)
- ⁴ Liddle, D.T. and Elliott, L.P. 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,

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⁵ 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, (ABRS, Canberra.)

⁶ 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.)