

Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Jacksonia divisa

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976



Credit: I.D. Cowie

Description

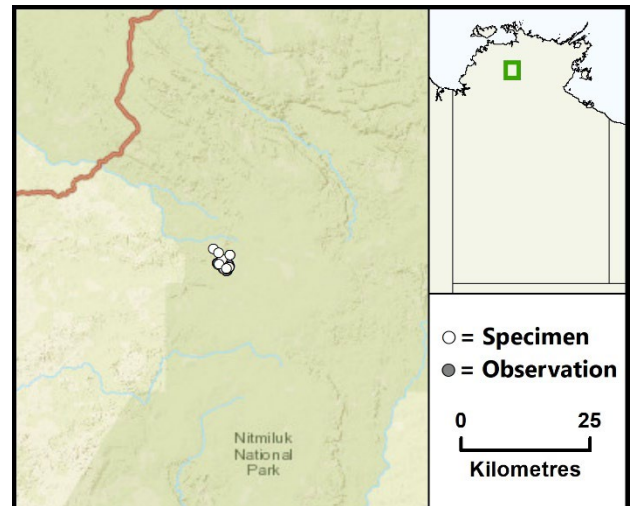
*Jacksonia divisa*¹ is an erect, densely branching shrub to 3 m tall. Stems are flattened, leaf-like, and grey-green with a distinctive bifid or trifid apex. The true leaves are reduced and inconspicuous. Flowers are yellow, clustered at the ends of the branchlets. The pods are stiff, c. 9 mm long, 4 mm wide, two-seeded and densely hairy.

Flowering and Fruiting: April to June.

Distribution

This species is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT) where it is restricted to the edges of a gorge on the eroding western margin of the Marrawal Plateau south of Bloomfield Springs in southern Kakadu National Park.

NT conservation reserves where reported:
Kakadu National Park.



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

Ecology

Associated with shrubland on sandy claystone on ledges and sandstone slopes around the escarpment of a tertiary plateau.

Threatening processes

The species is a spreading, obligate seeding shrub and considered to be vulnerable to high frequency fire regimes. At one site after an extensive, hot, late season fire the previous year the only pocket that had escaped being burnt was a small patch of 'heath' containing the species (K. Brennan pers. comm.).

The species is known from one locality and has not been found in similar habitat at Douglas Spring (Nitmiluk National Park), some 5 km to the south, nor at Kekwick Spring on the eastern side of the Plateau or at Bloomfield Springs to the north. Additional small areas of similar habitat appear to occur, scattered around the edge of the Marrawal Plateau. Intensive vegetation and flora survey of adjoining Nitmiluk National Park in 1999-2001 and survey targeting this habitat conducted in 2015 did not detect additional localities.

Conservation objectives and management

Research priorities include better quantification of the extent of distribution and population size, in particular targeted survey of potentially suitable habitat around the edge of the Marrawal Plateau. Establishment of monitoring plots would assist in study of the fire response of the species. A key management objective is to ensure a fire regime that is suitable to this species. This regime is likely to be characterised by a relatively low frequency of fire with a fire-free interval of three to five years. The life history and fire response characteristics of *J. divisa* need to be investigated and fire management prescriptions refined accordingly.

References

- ¹ Chappill, J.A., Wilkins, C.F. and Crisp, M.D. 2007. Taxonomic revision of *Jacksonia* (Leguminosae: Mirbelieae). *Australian Systematic Botany* 20(6), 473–623.