

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

Boronia viridiflora

Conservation status

Australia: Vulnerable

Northern Territory: Vulnerable



Photo: K. Brennan

Description

Boronia viridiflora is a shrub, growing perpendicular or slightly upwards from vertical rock faces. Its stems are 1.5-2 m long, and 4-angled. Its leaves are simple, elliptic to oblanceolate, red tipped. *Boronia viridiflora* differs from *B. quadrilata* by its horizontal habit, smaller, oblanceolate, subsessile leaves and smaller flowers and fruits.

Flowering and Fruiting: Apr, June.

Distribution

This species is endemic to the NT, where it is known from two populations south of Nabarlek in Arnhem Land.

Conservation reserves where reported:

None

Ecology

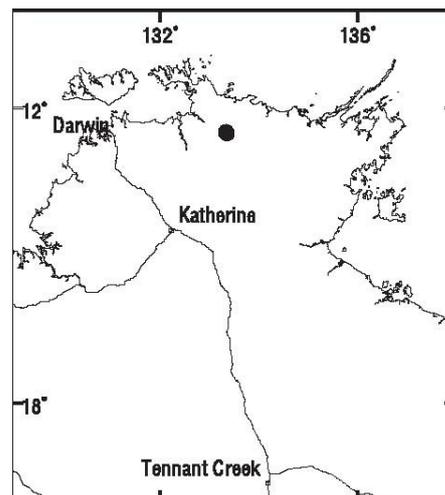
Boronia viridiflora grows from vertical surfaces of cliffs or boulders on the sandstone plateau.

Conservation assessment

The population is estimated at approximately 700 mature individuals (K. Brennan *pers.*

comm.). This species thus qualifies as **Vulnerable** (under criteria D1+2) as:

- the estimated number of mature individuals is <1000; and
- the species has a restricted distribution estimated to be <20 km².



Known locations of *Boronia viridiflora*

Threatening processes

With a small population of restricted distribution, this species is susceptible to stochastic events. The habitat it occurs in suggests an intolerance of fire and thus an expansion of the population into areas exposed to fire is unlikely. Its recruitment

potential is likely to be low given the availability of suitable sites and probability of successful dispersal to these sites.

Conservation objectives and management

A recovery plan for this species has been implemented from 2006 (Liddle and Gibbons 2006). Actions described in that plan, and currently being implemented, include to:

- i. conduct further searches and establish a monitoring program;
- ii. develop and implement a fire management program;
- iii. involve landholders and the broader community; and
- iv. where appropriate, develop an ex- situ population.

Compiled by

Raelee Kerrigan
Ian Cowie
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References

- Duretto, M.F. (1999). Systematics of *Boronia* section *Valvatae sensu lato* (Rutaceae). *Muelleria* 12, 1-132.
- Liddle, D.T., and Gibbons, A. (2006). *Recovery plan for Boronia quadrilata and Boronia viridiflora in the Northern Territory of Australia, 2006 to 2010*. (NT Department of Natural Resources Environment and the Arts, Darwin.)