

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

Dendromyza reinwardtiana

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable



Photo: D. Liddle

Description

This species is a parasitic vine or scrambling shrub. The leaves are alternate, elliptic to obovate, 20-100 mm long, with 3-9 longitudinal primary veins. It has separate male and female flowers. The fruit is pink, ovoid, 6-8 mm long.

Fruiting: Jan, Sep, Nov.



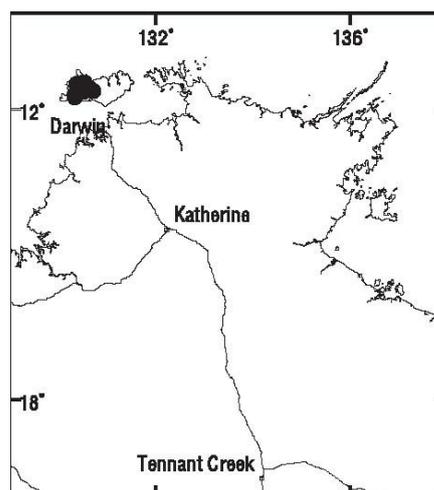
Photo: D. Liddle

Distribution

It occurs from Sumatra, Luzon to Papua New Guinea. In Australia, it is known from Cape York Peninsula and the NT. In the Northern Territory, the species is only found on Bathurst (3 sites) and Melville (4 sites) Islands (Woinarski *et al.* 2003).

Conservation reserves where reported:

None.



Known locations of *Dendromyza reinwardtiana*.

Ecology

It is found in perennial wet rainforest, where it is usually hosted by *Calophyllum soulattri* and *Syzygium eucalyptoides* subsp. *bleseri* (Dunlop *et al.* 1995).

Conservation assessment

This species is classified as **Vulnerable** (under criteria D1+2) based on:

- a population size estimated at <1000 individuals, with <20 individuals noted from one site (R. Kerrigan *pers obs.*); and
- a restricted area of occupancy (estimated to be <20 km²).

Threatening processes

With a small population size and restricted distribution, this species is susceptible to stochastic events. As an epiphyte, loss of habitat via cyclonic events is a potential threat. Changes to hydrology are also a possible threat, although not imminent. Wet riparian rainforests are more susceptible to fire following a reduction in water availability.

Conservation objectives and management

A Recovery Plan for this species, and other threatened plants on the Tiwi Islands, is due to be released in 2007, but many actions in its draft are currently being implemented.

Research is required to establish the status of populations of this species and the extent of its distribution. It is difficult to prescribe recovery actions without knowledge on the dynamics of the population or the associated threats. Management of fire in surrounding savanna is required to ensure that fires do not burn into the rainforests. A monitoring program should be established. Collection of propagation material and translocation to a botanic gardens may be required.

Complied by

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References

- Dunlop, C.R., Leach, G.J., and Cowie, I.D. (1995). *Flora of the Darwin Region Vol 2*. (Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory, Darwin)
- 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.)