

# Monarto Mintbush

*Prostanthera eurybioides*



Monarto Mintbush (close-up)

## Description

- Spreading shrub <1m high
- Branches covered in short, curled hairs
- Leaves are clustered, thick and hairless
- The base of the flower is mid-green with a red or maroon tinge
- Petals are light purple, partly fused together, 10-12mm long, with orange and dark purple dots on the inner side of the flower

## Ecology

- Flowering occurs from September to November
- Grows on sandy loam and loam soils

## Conservation rating

Monarto Mintbush is nationally endangered with approximately 600 plants remaining in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin. A population also occurs in the upper South-East of South Australia at Mount Monster.

## Threats

- Small population
- Weed competition
- Rabbit grazing
- Illegal collection
- Stock grazing
- Inappropriate / lack of fire
- Kangaroo grazing

Monarto Mintbush is at particular risk from grazing by rabbits and kangaroos which may be reducing seed set and survival of seedlings. Small population size, a lack of recruitment, and low seed viability are also major threats. General weed invasion of habitats is inhibiting seeding germination and survival.

## Habitat

Monarto Mintbush is found in tall shrublands or open woodlands, usually associated with rocky granite outcrops. When present in tall shrublands there are very few overstorey species present.

The dominant species that is found in this habitat type is:

- Broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*)

Understorey plants are typically dominated by scattered shrubs over native grasses, lilies and herbs.

In open woodland the dominant overstorey species present include:

- Mallee Box (*Eucalyptus porosa*)
- Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* ssp. *leucoxylon*)
- Beaked Red Mallee (*Eucalyptus socialis*)
- Narrow-leaf Red Mallee (*Eucalyptus leptophylla*)

Understorey plants are typically dominated by scattered shrubs over native grasses, lilies and herbs.



## Distribution

Monarto Mintbush is only found in South Australia, with small populations restricted to two separate areas:

- Monarto (near Murray Bridge) - populations are small and scattered through this general area
- Mount Monster Conservation Park – populations are scattered within the park and on private land

## How you can help

Please be aware of native plants and help preserve them by:

- Preventing damage by grazing
- Preventing removal/illegal collection
- Preventing competition from weeds
- Never pick native flowers, take a photo instead
- Volunteering with NR SAMDB or join your local native vegetation group and help to look after a threatened plant population
- Reporting any sightings of Monarto Mintbush to the contacts listed below

### For further information

#### Natural Resources Centre

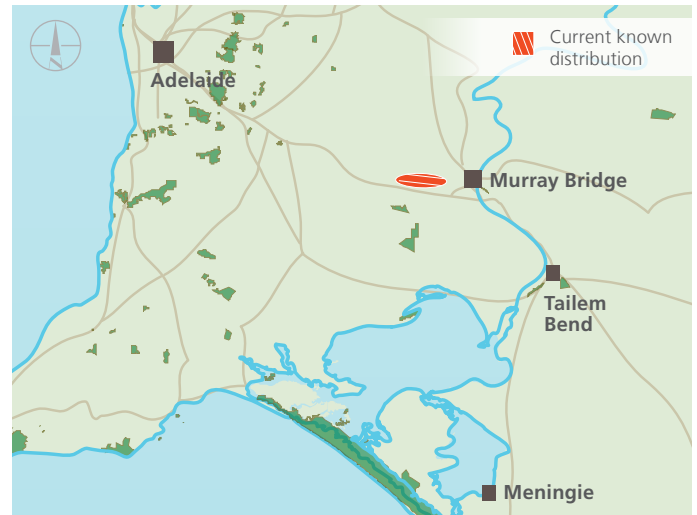
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin

**Murray Bridge:** (08) 8532 9100

**Berri:** (08) 8580 1800

**E:** [enquiries-samdb@sa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries-samdb@sa.gov.au)

[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin)



Distribution of Monarto Mintbush in the SA MDB



Monarto Mintbush in flower



Monarto Mintbush growing in a Boombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*) tall shrubland

