

Silver Daisy-bush

Olearia pannosa ssp. *pannosa*



Silver Daisy-bush (close-up)

Description

- A shrub growing to a height of 1.5m which produces root suckers
- Stems are woody at the base, branched and without ribs
- Leaves are 3-9cm long, elliptic to ovate, with the length usually double the width
- Lower leaf surfaces are covered with short, soft, matted hairs and the upper leaf surfaces have few if any hairs and are shiny and somewhat wrinkled
- Flower-heads are solitary, terminal and in the upper leaf axils on robust stalks that are 12-30cm long
- There are 12-24 ray florets ('petals') that are 20-30mm long, white or rarely pale-mauve and there are 30-50 yellow disk florets per flower-head
- Seedling leaves have teeth on their edges, whilst leaves of vegetative shoots do not

Ecology

- A perennial shrub that flowers predominantly between August and October
- Grows in flat, sandy terrain and areas with rocky soils
- Seeds ripen by December with delayed seed dispersal as late as May the following year
- Seed dispersal may be limited due to the relatively heavy seed compared with the small pappus (ring of hairs)

Conservation rating

Silver Daisy-bush is listed as nationally vulnerable. There are approximately 1000 individual plants remaining in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin. Due to the suckering nature of the plant it is often difficult to determine individual plants.

Threats

- Fragmentation
- Weed competition
- Small population size
- Road and rail maintenance activities
- Lack of new plants

Many Silver Daisy-bush populations are fragmented and contain a small number of individuals. They often occur in narrow roadside remnants that are potentially under threat from roadside maintenance activities and edge effects, such as spray drift and exposure to wind. They also suffer from severe weed infestation, particularly agricultural weeds and Bridal Creeper. Another major threat to all populations is a lack of recruitment of new individuals. Inclusion of roadside populations in the roadside marker scheme and appropriate management of roadside sites is essential for the future of this species. Further research is required into the species ecology and population trends.



Habitat

Silver Daisy-bush occurs in mallee and woodland communities.

The overstorey of mallee habitats is dominated by:

- Sessile-fruit White Mallee (*Eucalyptus phenax ssp. phenax*)
- Coastal White Mallee (*Eucalyptus rugosa*)

Other mallee species common in the overstorey of these associations include:

- Beaked Red Mallee (*Eucalyptus socialis*)
- Square-fruit Mallee (*Eucalyptus calycogona*)
- Narrow-leaved Red Mallee (*Eucalyptus leptophylla*)

The overstorey of woodland habitats is dominated by:

- Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus odorata*)
- Pink Gum (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*)

Native understorey plants common in these associations include species of Acacia, Melaleuca, chenopod shrubs, sedges and grasses.

Distribution

Silver Daisy-bush is found in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. Within South Australia populations are scattered in various regions and within the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin populations are known to occur in the following areas:

- In a broad band between Mannum and Goolwa to the north and south, and Murray Bridge and Strathalbyn to the east and west
- Near Keith in the upper South-East

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 Silver Daisy-bush to the contacts listed.

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

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin



Distribution of Silver Daisy-bush in the SA MDB



Silver Daisy-bush in flower



Silver Daisy-bush habitat

