Threatened Species

Phebalium distans
Mt Berryman Phebalium

**Scientific Name:** Phebalium distans

**Common Name:** Mt Berryman Phebalium

**Status:**
Listed as Endangered
Schedule 2 Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992
Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006

Also listed as Critically Endangered under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

**Identification:**
A small tree to 10 m with grey- fawn, mottled bark that is distinctly rough and flaky: occasionally mottled with lichen.

**Height:**
Grows to 10 metres

**Leaves:**
Simple, alternate, linear to 6 cm x 5 mm. Shiny mid to dark green on the upper surface, paler on the underside, with a dense covering of silvery brown and bronze scales, alternate, simple, linear to 6 cm by 5 mm.

**Flowers:**
Cream, star-shaped with pointed petals to 5 mm, borne in clusters mostly during spring and summer but will flower in response to moderate rainfall.

**Fruits:**
A warty, green cocci (2 lobed capsule that separates on maturity), to 4 mm x 3 mm.

**Seeds:**
Single, slightly kidney-shaped, grey to black.

**Seed Dispersal/Reproduction:**
This species has limited seed dispersal, with unknown viability and is not known to reproduce vegetatively.

**Habitat:**
Found on red soils in vineforest, semi-evergreen vine thicket and open forest ecosystems and econtones, generally above 200 m elevation.

**Distribution:**
Occurs in a few isolated patches around Mt Berryman near Laidley, the Walla Range at Coulston Lakes, the Mt Jones Plateau complex of the Boogie Range at Kingaroy and the plateau complex of the Speedwell Range near Proston.
**Phebalium distans**
Mt Berryman Phebalium

**Threats:**

Fires occurring too frequently prevent rainforest species from resprouting or reaching maturity and may lead to the loss of rainforest ecosystems and consequently this species.

The large biomass of invasive species such as *Eragrostis curvula* (African Love Grass) and *Panicum maximum* var. *pubiglumis* (Green Panic) leads to large fuel loads being accumulated and therefore more intense, damaging fires.

As most of the main populations of this plant occur on roadsides, disturbance of the habitat through development, clearing and roadside maintenance is also a threat to the species.

The dumping of rubbish leads to degradation of habitat and hinders natural regeneration and worse, its facilitates the introduction and establishment of competitive weeds.

Weeds such as *Anredera cordifolia* (Madeira Vine), *Rivina humilis* (Coral Berry), *Opuntia stricta* (Tree pear) and *Opuntia tomentosa* (Velvet Tree Pear) have invaded the ecosystems containing this species.

The drift of agricultural chemicals, collection of firewood, and the inappropriate collection of plant material all pose a risk to the continued survival of the plant.

Due to the small capacity to overcome adverse impacts of any nature, fragmented populations of this plant, a loss of genetic variation may pose a threat to its resilience.

**Council Requirements:**

The South Burnett Regional Council is responsible for the management and protection of remnant vegetation that occurs on Council controlled reserves and local road reserves in accordance with Section 60 of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

An application must be made to council to clear or burn any of the Council controlled reserves or roadside reserves in the South Burnett Region so that the impact on this species and other threatened species may be assessed and managed or minimised.

For further information contact:

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For Application and Referral Forms Visit:

www.derm.qld.gov.au or www.environment.gov.au

This publication is an initiative of South Burnett Regional Council’s Natural Resources Management department and was compiled with information and photographs provided by Caroline Haskard, Vegetation Matters. This information is provided as a guide only and South Burnett Regional Council accepts no responsibility or liability for the accuracy of the information presented.

An ornamental small tree with foliage.

Most populations occur at elevation and are dissected by roads, leaving them open to ongoing disturbances.

The seam in the lobes of the developing cocci is just visible.