

Polianthion minutiflorum (E. M. Ross) K. R. Thiele

Polianthion

Scientific Name: *Polianthion minutiflorum*
(E. M. Ross) K. R. Thiele

Common Name: Polianthion

Status:

Listed as **Vulnerable**

Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992, Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2009.

Also listed as **Vulnerable**

Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Identification:

Polianthion minutiflorum is a small spreading shrub to around 1 metre, with reddish-brown, glossy bark. All parts of the plant are covered in stellate hairs which are white or grey, but occasionally may be straw coloured.

Leaves: Simple, alternate, wedge shape to 5 cm by 3 mm wide, mid green and dotted above, with a few short scattered stellate hairs, and appearing white below due to a covering of simple and stellate white hairs.

Flowers: Tubular with white, smooth, upright triangular petals to 2 mm, anthers maroon in an inner ring around the petals, stigma divided into 2-3 arms mostly 3. Borne in terminal cymes of 15-30 flowers, generally during spring.

Capsules: Fruits split at maturity into closed, one seeded parts, 2 lobed, densely hairy to 3-5 mm.

Seeds: Seeds reddish brown to black, oblong, to 3 mm, slightly compressed, with a pale translucent yellow aril.

Seed Dispersal/Reproduction: This plant itself is relatively unknown with less than 20 sightings in the field and therefore little is known about the life history, reproduction and germination rates.

Habitat:

Found in tall open forests, often with a shrubby understorey or with vineforest species in the understorey, in an ecotone between open forest and vineforest at above 400 m altitude on sandy, gravelly, clayey or rocky soils.

Distribution:

Occurs in a variety of habitats in hilly country over an area of approximately 800 km from Redcliffe Vale west of Mackay to Kingaroy and Nanango in the South Burnett.



Whole plant



Flowers



Flowerbuds

Threatened Species

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Threats:

Fires occurring at the wrong time of year, at too great an intensity and too frequently lead to interruptions to the reproductive cycle, loss of plants and loss of seed banks.

The introduced grass, *Eragrostis curvula* (African Love Grass) is a major threat to the species. Its large biomass causes large fuel loads to accumulate which leads to more intense, damaging fires. Invasion by *Lantana camara* (Lantana) in some Polianthion habitat areas can be a problem with Lantana contributing to high fuel loads and generally altering habitat and outcompeting native species for nutrients and space.

Disturbance of the habitat through development, clearing and roadside maintenance is also a threat to the species.

The dumping of rubbish, leading to degradation of habitat, the hindering of revegetation, and the establishment of weeds in the habitat is another major threat.

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

Due to the small, fragmented populations of this plant, a loss of genetic variation may pose the greatest 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.



Dense Buds



Densely hairy new foliage with two tone leaves



Habitat

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.



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