

Scientific Name: *Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbillifera*

Common name: Wild watsonia

QUESTION	COMMENTS	REFERENCE	RANKING
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	“An erect perennial herb, commonly 1.2 to 1.8 m high.” It is widespread in medium to large populations invading a broad range of vegetation formations including riparian areas and seasonal freshwater wetland. “Bulbil <i>Watsonia</i> forms dense stands.” May be a high annoyance to humans; makes access difficult.	P & C (2001) Carr <i>et al</i> (1992) Muyt (2001)	ML
2. Reduce tourism?	Some recreational activities such as fishing may be affected.		ML
3. Injurious to people?	“Poisoning of livestock has been reported overseas.” It is not considered harmful to humans.	Blood (2001)	L
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Dense stands would produce a negative visual effect.		ML
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species.	P & C (2001)	L
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species.	P & C (2001)	L
7. Increase soil erosion?	The root system is shallow and fibrous. Dense stands may provide cover. “All aerial growth dies in summer but dead plants often remain standing for several months.” Not likely to contribute to erosion.	P & C (2001)	L
8. Reduce biomass?	Occurs on, “heavy soils in moist conditions, becoming a weed of roadsides and neglected areas.” Biomass may increase as a result of dense clumping of plants.	P & C (2001) Muyt (2001)	L
9. Change fire regime?	“All aerial growth dies in summer but dead plants often remain standing for several months.” Increase in biomass due to dense clumping may increase the frequency of fire risk.	P & C (2001)	ML
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC=Plains grass woodland (E); CMA=Port Phillip; Bioreg=Gippsland Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. A highly invasive species. Dominates ground flora and prevents most overstorey regeneration. Tolerates sun, semi-shade, moist conditions, flooding for several weeks, most soil types. Major displacement of species in lower and mid strata.	Muyt (2001) Blood (2001)	MH
(b) medium value EVC	EVC=Wet heathland (D); CMA=West Gippsland; Bioreg=Gippsland Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. Impact as in 10(a) above.	Muyt (2001) Blood (2001)	MH
(c) low value EVC	EVC=Heathy woodland (E); CMA=Port Phillip; Bioreg=Gippsland Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. Impact as in 10(a) above.	Muyt (2001) Blood (2001)	MH
11. Impact on structure?	“Bulbil <i>Watsonia</i> forms dense stands that dominate the ground-layer and prevent most overstorey regeneration occurring.” Infestations would have a major impact on the ground flora and affect mid-storey species..	Muyt (2001)	ML
12. Effect on threatened flora?	Threatens ANZECC rated rare or threatened native plant species	Groves et al (2003)	H

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Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?			
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	It invades, “dry coastal vegetation, heathland and heathy woodland, lowland grassland and grassy woodland, dry and damp sclerophyll forest and woodland riparian vegetation, freshwater wetland (seasonal), roadsides, unimproved pastures, gardens, wasteland and railway lines.” “Bulbil Watsonia forms dense stands that dominate the ground-layer and prevent most overstorey regeneration occurring.” Presence may lead to a reduction in habitat.	Blood (2001) Muyt (2001)	MH
15. Benefits fauna?	No known benefits.		H
16. Injurious to fauna?	“It is claimed to be poisonous to stock, and losses of horses have been reported overseas but this is not a problem in Australia. Animals do not graze mature plants but young shoots are eaten without any apparent effect.” Potentially mildly toxic?	P & C (2001)	ML
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	Not known as a food source to pest animals.		L
18. Provides harbor?	Not known to provide harbor.		L
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	“Wild watsonia does not invade improved pastures or cultivated land and, therefore, is of little agricultural importance.” Little or no impact on yield.	P & C (2001)	L
20. Impact quality?	“Wild watsonia does not invade improved pastures or cultivated land and, therefore, is of little agricultural importance.” Little or no impact quality.	P & C (2001)	L
21. Affect land value?	“Wild watsonia does not invade improved pastures or cultivated land and, therefore, is of little agricultural importance.” Not likely to affect land value.	P & C (2001)	L
22. Change land use?	“Wild watsonia does not invade improved pastures or cultivated land and, therefore, is of little agricultural importance.” Change in land use not required.	P & C (2001)	L
23. Increase harvest costs?	Does not affect harvesting.		L
24. Disease host/vector?	None evident.		L

Groves, Rh (Convener), Hoskings, JR, Batianoff, GN, Cooke, DA, Cowie, ID, Johnson, RW, Keighery, GJ, Lepschi, BJ, Mitchell, AA, Moerkerk, M, Randall, RP, Razefelds, AC, Walsh, NG, and WaterhouseB. (2003) Weed categories for natural and agricultural ecosystems management. Bureau of Rural Sciences, Canberra