

Impact Assessment Record

Scientific Name: Barleria prionitis

Common name: barleria, porcupine flower

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
Restrict human access?	Grows up to 1.5m. May grow as a single plant or in large, tangled thickets. 'Thickets can impede the movement of stock, restrict access to waterways' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). 'The prickly nature and dense thickets of the bush makes it impossible for wildlife, stock or humans to get through to waterways' (CPC 2002). Weed would have a high nuisance value.	MH	M
Reduce tourism?	Can 'reduce the aesthetic values of natural bushland' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Potential to have a minor effect on aesthetics.	ML	M
Injurious to people?	The plant has 5- to 20mm long spines (Francis 2002). Spines are present at certain times of years.	ML	MH
Damage to cultural sites?	Can 'reduce the aesthetic values of natural bushland' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Possible that the weed would have a moderate visual effect.	ML	M
Abiotic			
Impact flow?	Terrestrial species.	L	MH
Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species.	L	MH
Increase soil erosion?	Although defoliates annually during the dry season, it has a tap and lateral root system, branching in all directions which would help 'protect the soil against erosion' (Francis 2002). Unlikely to contribute to large-scale soil movement.	L	MH
Reduce biomass?	'Dense stands eliminate most other ground vegetation' (Francis 2002). Likely that biomass may increase.	L	MH
Change fire regime?	Weed dies off during the dry season and grows up to 1.5m. Can grow in grassland. Possible that the weed's dry matter would have a minor effect on the frequency or intensity of fire risk.	ML	M
Community Habitat			
Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	The potential distribution of <i>Barleria prionitis</i> excludes Victoria. No impact on EVCs in Victoria.	L	H
(b) medium value EVC	The potential distribution of <i>Barleria prionitis</i> excludes Victoria. No impact on EVCs in Victoria.	L	H
(c) low value EVC	The potential distribution of <i>Barleria prionitis</i> excludes Victoria. No impact on EVCs in Victoria.	L	H
Impact on structure?	'Dense stands eliminate most other ground vegetation' (Francis 2002). The weed would have a major effect on less than 60% of the floral strata.	MH	MH

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Effect on threatened flora?	The potential for <i>Barleria prionitis</i> to establish and naturalise in Victoria is highly unlikely due to ecoclimatic limitations. No impact on threatened flora in Victoria.	L	MH
Fauna			
Effect on threatened fauna?	The potential for <i>Barleria prionitis</i> to establish and naturalise in Victoria is highly unlikely due to ecoclimatic limitations. No impact on threatened fauna in Victoria.	L	MH
Effect on non-threatened fauna?	'The prickly nature and dense thickets of the bush makes it impossible for wildlife, stock or humans to get through to waterways' (CPC 2002). Weed may have a minor effect on fauna spp.	ML	M
Benefits fauna?	'Furnishes cover for wildlife' (Francis 2002). May provide some assistance in shelter to desirable species.	MH	MH
Injurious to fauna?	'Spiny and generally ignored by cattle' (Francis 2002). Spines are present at certain times of the year.	MH	MH
Pest Animal			
Food source to pests?	Not a known food source for pest animals.	L	MH
Provides harbor?	'Can provide refuge for feral animals' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). May provide harbour for minor pest spp.	ML	M
Agriculture			
Impact yield?	'Thickets can impede the movement of stock, restrict access to waterways'. 'Infestations reduce the productivity of pastoral country' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). May have a minor impact on carrying capacity of land.	ML	M
Impact quality?	Not a weed of cropping.	L	MH
Affect land value?	Primarily a weed of natural ecosystems. Unlikely to effect land value.	L	MH
Change land use?	Primarily a weed of natural ecosystems. Unlikely to cause a change in priority of land use.	L	MH
Increase harvest costs?	Not a weed of cropping.	L	MH
Disease host/vector?	None evident.	L	MH

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References cited:

- Centre for Plant Conservation (CPC) 2002, 'Home garden plant turns menace in the Kimberley', *CPC News*, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, no. 4, viewed 28 Nov 2005, <http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/>
- CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003, *Weed management guide: barleria or porcupine flower – Barleria prionitis*, CRC for Australian Weed Management and Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage, viewed 28 Nov 2005, http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/wmg_barleria.pdf
- Francis, J.K. 2002, *Barleria prionitis* L. *Acanthaceae*, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, US Department of Agriculture, viewed 28 Nov 2005, <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/iitf/Barleria%20prionitis.pdf>

Revisions

Date	Revised by	Revision
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