

QUESTION	COMMENTS	REFERENCE	RANKING
<b>Social</b>			
1. Restrict human access?	“A prostrate annual herb.” Would not hinder human access.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
2. Reduce tourism?	“Leaves [are] very woolly, deeply lobed, many spines on margins. Each flower head is surrounded by numerous sharply spined bracts.” Spiny nature of plant may restrict some recreational activities where it occurs on channel banks.	P & C (2001)	<b>MH</b>
3. Injurious to people?	The sharp spines may cause minor injuries to humans. Spines present for much of the year.		<b>MH</b>
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Dense patches may create a negative visual effect.		<b>ML</b>
<b>Abiotic</b>			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
7. Increase soil erosion?	“It commonly occurs in volunteer pastures, and on fallows, roadsides and channel banks.” Unlikely to increase soil erosion.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
8. Reduce biomass?	“It commonly occurs in volunteer pastures, and on fallows, roadsides and channel banks.” Biomass replaced by invader.	P & C (2001)	<b>ML</b>
9. Change fire regime?	A prostrate annual. Would not affect the fire regime.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
<b>Community Habitat</b>			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC=Plains grassy woodland (E); CMA=North Central; Bioreg=Wimmera; VH CLIMATE potential. Large rosettes (up to 60 cm dia.). Can shade other species preventing germination. Major displacement of ground cover species and annual grasses. Currently occurs in medium to large populations.	APA&PCB <sup>1</sup> Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	<b>MH</b>
(b) medium value EVC	Does not appear likely that <i>O. acaulon</i> would occur in any medium value EVCs in Victoria.		<b>L</b>
(c) low value EVC	Does not appear likely that <i>O. acaulon</i> would occur in any low value EVCs in Victoria.		<b>L</b>
11. Impact on structure?	In Victoria, it occurs in medium to large populations. Major effect on ground covers/grasses.	Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	<b>ML</b>
12. Effect on threatened flora?			

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<b>Fauna</b>			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?			
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	According to Carr <i>et al</i> (1992), the plant is widespread in Victoria occurring in medium to large populations in mallee shrubland and lowland grassland & grassy woodland. As stock do not graze the plant, its presence may reduce the amount of available fodder for fauna spp.	Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	<b>ML</b>
15. Benefits fauna?	No known benefits.		<b>H</b>
16. Injurious to fauna?	“When stock have been forced to eat the plant cases of impaction and suspected liver damage have occurred.” Potential risk to fauna species.	P & C (2001)	<b>MH</b>
<b>Pest Animal</b>			
17. Food source to pests?	Not known as a food source to pest animals.		<b>L</b>
18. Provides harbor?	A prostrate annual, it would not provide harbor.		<b>L</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>			
19. Impact yield?	“Stemless thistle is rarely eaten by stock...and, therefore, the carrying capacity of heavily infested paddocks is reduced.” Level of impact not quantified, but as the weed is distributed widely in medium to large populations, assume at least a major impact on yield.	P & C (2001) Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	<b>MH</b>
20. Impact quality?	Not known to affect the quality of produce.		<b>L</b>
21. Affect land value?	“Seeds survive in soil for several years making eradication difficult.” Land value may be slightly reduced in pastoral areas.	P & C (2001)	<b>M</b>
22. Change land use?	“It is not known how demanding stemless thistle is for soil nutrients and what effect heavy patches may have on subsequent crops. Lucerne competes well with stemless thistle and should be established wherever practical.” No data to conclude a change in land use is required.	P & C (2001)	<b>L</b>
23. Increase harvest costs?	Not known to affect harvesting costs.		<b>L</b>
24. Disease host/vector?	None evident.		<b>L</b>

<sup>1</sup> Adelaide Plains Animal & Plant Control Board, nd., [http://www.adplains.net.au/weed\\_stemless.htm](http://www.adplains.net.au/weed_stemless.htm), viewed 24/06/03