

Denhamia parvifolia L. S. Smith

Small-leaved Denhamia

Scientific Name: *Denhamia parvifolia* L. S. Smith

Common Name: Small-leaved Denhamia

Status:

Listed as Vulnerable

Schedule 3 Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992

Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006

Also listed as Vulnerable under the Federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Identification:

Denhamia parvifolia is a small, often shrubby tree with smooth, grey bark; often mottled or banded with patches of lichen.

Height: Grows to 6 metres

Leaves: Simple, alternate, leathery, elliptic to obovate, dull green on the upper surface, paler underneath, up to 2 cm by 0.75 cm.

Flowers: White to pale yellow, to 5 mm in terminal clusters, present mainly in spring and summer.

Pods: A woody, 3 - 4 valved ovoid capsule to 8 mm long by 6 mm wide.

Seeds: Shiny black, 1 - 2 per valve with an aril that becomes bright red and granular.

Seed Dispersal/Reproduction: Widely dispersed by birds that are attracted to the brightly coloured aril.

Habitat:

Found in dry rainforest ecosystems such as soft wood and brigalow scrub, vine forests and semi-evergreen vine thickets, on brown or red soils above 300 m altitude and occasionally found in open forest ecotone areas.

Distribution:

Occurs on basalt derived soils from Eidsvold to Yarraman, and into the eastern Darling Downs.



Venation erupting as marginal spines



Vibrant new foliage



Longitudinal striations on a branchlet



Terminal cymes of small flowers



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Threats:

Denhamia parvifolia L. S. Smith does not have a fire adapted ecology; typical of most rainforest species, it has not been able to develop strategies for withstanding or coping with fire. Repeated or singular intense fires can destroy these ecosystems and their dependent species from the landscape.

Introduced species such as *Eragrostis curvula* (African Love Grass) and *Megathyrsus maximus* var. *pubiglumis* (Green Panic) are a major threat to the species. Their large biomass leads to large fuel loads being accumulated and therefore more intense, damaging fires.

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 and the establishment of weeds in the habitat is a major threat.

Weeds such as *Rivina humilis* (Coral Berry) and *Asparagus africanus* (Basket Asparagus Fern) dominate the ground layer and outcompete emerging native vegetation, disrupting natural regeneration.

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 species.

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 to ensure their future survival.

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For Application and Referral Forms Visit:

www.derm.qld.gov.au

www.environment.qld.gov.au



Bright red arils attract seed dispersers



Sun-seeking vine species

Threatened Species



SOUTH BURNETT
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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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