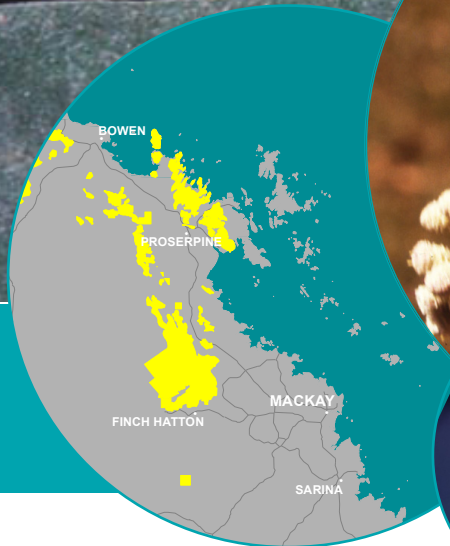




Ozothamnus Eriocephalus

Ozothamnus eriocephalus



Conservation Status

Queensland State: **Vulnerable**

Australian Government: **Vulnerable**

Species and status overview

A spindly shrub growing to about 1 m with fine white hairs over the branches *Ozothamnus eriocephalus* occurs in a range of different habitats from the edges of vine and gallery forest; to tall open *Eucalypt* forest with an understory of *Allocasuarina*; to open eucalypt forest with *Acacia* and scrub understory. It is found at moderate to high elevations 380-950 m.

O. eriocephalus has become vulnerable through a combination of threats including inappropriate land management regimes (e.g. fire and grazing) and degradation of natural habitat by weeds.

The species has been recorded locally in the following areas:

- Peases Lookout and Dick's Tableland in Eungella National Park
- Sydney Heads at Homevale National Park
- Finch Hatton Gorge
- Lake Elphinstone
- Mt. Abbot
- Gloucester Island
- Redcliffe vale

Description

O. eriocephalus features a web of fine hairs over the lance-shaped leaves giving the plant a pale hue. The leaves are dark green on the underside with prominent veins on the top. Flowers are purple to white, 3 mm long and also covered in the white hairs.

This species flowers in March and May and from July to September, with fruiting recorded in March and July.

Conservation concerns

Threats:

- Invasion by exotic weeds such as Molasses grass and Guinea grass or *Lantana camara* and blue-top.
- Overgrazing especially near cattle camps beside watering points and molasses troughs.
- Inappropriate timber harvesting.
- Inappropriate fire regimes.

What can I do?

- Manage and prevent the establishment of weeds such as Lantana in areas of known populations.
- Maintain fire regimes suitable for the habitat in which this species occurs Refer to: The Clarke Connors Range Fire Management Guidelines.

Photo credit: Steve and Alison Pearson