

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Vascular Plants of several small islands near Denmark** – There are at least 2,562 islands, islets and rocks in Western Australia, of which about 635 (24.7%) are vested as conservation reserves in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia. In 2009 the Commission carried out an audit of the conservation and management of biodiversity on Western Australian islands (CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA 2009. Status Performance Assessment: Biodiversity Conservation On Western Australian Islands, Phase 1. Conservation Commission of Western Australia. Pp. 1–164). The Commission made a wide ranging series of 22 recommendations, under Context, Planning, Inputs and Outcomes. Outcome recommendation 4 stated that “A review be conducted on the occurrence and impact of weeds on island conservation reserves”.

As part of the background preparing this review the floras of three small previously undocumented islands near Denmark are presented. Non native naturalised species (weeds) are indicated by an asterisk in the list of plants.

1. “Madfish Bay” Island (35° 01' 39.6"S; 117° 15' 24.6"E) an unofficial name in William Bay National Park, west of Denmark. Visited 18-1-1991 and 21-1-1992.

*Acacia littorea*, *Actites megalocarpa*, *Apium prostratum*, *Austrostipa*

*flavescens*, \**Arctotheca calendula*, \**Arctotheca populifolia*, \**Bromus diandrus*, \**Cakile maritima*, *Carpobrotus modestus*, *Exocarpus sparteus*, \**Lolium loliaceum*, *Carpobrotus modestus*, \**Chenopodium murale*, *Dianella brevicaulis*, \**Euphorbia paralias*, *Ficinia nodosa*, \**Hordeum leporinum*, \**Lagurus ovatus*, \**Lepidium procumbens*, *Lepidosperma gladiatum*, *Leucophyton brownii*, \**Lysimachia arvensis*, \**Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*, *Olex phyllanthii*, *Olearia axillaris*, \**Orobanche minor*, *Pimelea ferruginea*, *Poa porphyroclados*, \**Polycarpon tetraphyllum*, *Rhagodia baccata*, \**Sagina apetala*, *Samolus repens*, *Sarcornia quinqueflora*, *Scaevola crassifolia*, \**Senecio elegans*, *Senecio pinnatifolius*, \**Stellaria media*, \**Sonchus oleraceus*, *Sporobolus virginicus*, *Spyridium globulosum*, *Tetragonia implexicoma*, *Threlkeldia diffusa* and \**Vulpia myuros*.

Total Flora recorded: 43 species (24 Native and 19 Naturalised)

2. Small unnamed island west of and adjacent to “Madfish Bay” Island (35° 01' 41.3"S; 117° 15' 14.5"E). Has a large breeding colony of Crested Terns. Visited 18-1-1991 and 21-1-1992.

*Actites megalocarpa*, \**Arctotheca populifolia*, *Carpobrotus modestus*, *Rhagodia baccata*, *Pelargonium australe*, \**Senecio elegans*, \**Sonchus oleraceus* and *Threlkeldia diffusa*.

Total Flora recorded: 8 species (5 Native and 3 Naturalised).



3. Honeymoon Island (34° 59' 27.1"S; 117° 20' 41.0"E). in Wilson Inlet, visited on 23-1-1992.

This is one of the larger islands in the inlet, with several distinct vegetation associations:

Vegetation type A: Fringing *Melaleuca cuticularis* low woodland over *Sarcornia* succulent shrubland over *Juncus kraussii* sedgeland.

*Apium prostratum*, *Atriplex cinerea*, \**Atriplex prostrata*, *Isolepis congrua*, *Juncus kraussii* subsp. *australiensis*, *Lobelia anceps*, *Melaleuca cuticularis*, *Sarcocornia quinqueflora*, *Samolus repens*, *Selliera radicans* and *Sporobolus virginicus*.

Vegetation type B: Upslope is an open Granite Slope with moss swards and scattered shrubs of *Melaleuca raphiophylla* in crevices with deeper soil.

*Alternanthera nodiflora*, \**Amaranthus ?viridis*, \**Asparagus asparagoides*, *Asplenium aethiopicum*, *Austrostipa flavescens*, *Centella cordifolia*, \**Cerastium glomeratum*, \**Chenopodium album*, \**Chenopodium murale*, \**Conyza sumatrensis*, \**Cortaderia selloana*, *Crassula colorata*, *Cryptostylis ovata*, \**Dactylis glomerata*, *Dianella brevicaulis*, *Euchiton gymnocephalum*, *Ficinia nodosa*, \**Hypochaeris glabra*, \**Holcus lanatus*, *Hypoleana fastigata*, *Lachnagrostis filiformis*, \**Leontodon saxatile*, \**Lepidium bonariense*, *Lepidosperma squamatum*, *Leucopogon parviflorus*, \**Lolium loliaceum*, \**Lysimachia arvensis*, \**Malva*

*parviflora*, *Melaleuca hamulosa*, *Melaleuca raphiophylla*, \**Pennisetum clandestinum*, \**Phleum pratense*, \**Phytolacca octandra*, *Poa porphyroclados*, *Schoenus gramatophyllus*, \**Solanum nigrum*, \**Sonchus oleraceus*, \**Sporobolus africanus*, *Stackhousia pubescens*, *Styandra glauca*, *Trachymene pilosa*, \**Trifolium subterraneum*, \**Vellereophyton candidissimum* and \**Vulpia bromoides*.

Vegetation type C: The island is surmounted by a central plateau with Low open Karri woodland.

*Agonis flexuosa*, *Bossiaea linophylla*, \**Briza maxima*, *Callistachys lanceolata*, *Cassytha racemosa*, *Eucalyptus diversicolor*, \**Hainardia cylindrica*, *Lepidosperma visidulum*, *Lobelia tenuior* and *Opercularia hispidula*.

Total Flora recorded: 65 species (39 Native and 26 Naturalised).

There are a number of weeds present on Honeymoon Island that have either, not been previously recorded from any Western Australian island (*Dactylis glomerata*, *Leontodon saxatile* and *Hainardia cylindrica*) or only for estuarine islands (*Cortaderia selloana* and *Trifolium subterraneum*) at Yunderup (KEIGHERY, GJ and MUIR, W.M. 2010. Checklists of the vascular plants of the deltaic islands of the Peel-Harvey Estuary. Western Australian Naturalist 27: 107–124.). Recording the floras of the other near-by islands (Crusoe, Jacks, Pelican and Rabbit) of Wilson Inlet would prove

illuminating to see if these weeds are also present on these islands and may be a group of weeds that invade estuarine islands.

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