



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Barradam-bang wattle

Acacia meiantha

Endangered

The barradam-bang wattle (*Acacia meiantha*) is an erect and sometimes straggling wattle shrub belonging to the family Fabaceae. The plant grows to around 2 metres and has smooth green/brown bark with straight phyllodes (leaf like structures) instead of true leaves. It produces a bright yellow inflorescence (cluster of flowers) between July and October followed by green/blue pods that are up to 1 centimetre wide and 2 to 8 centimetres long.

Populations are known from three separate locations, all within the Central Tablelands and within 100 kilometres of each other. Clarence covers an area of approximately 1 hectare; Mullions Range, approximately 5 hectares; and Aarons Pass is confined to 2.5 kilometres of road easements.

The name 'barradam-bang wattle' has only recently been given to *Acacia meiantha*, following a *Saving our Species* public competition to suggest common names for some of our native threatened species. This Wiradjuri word means 'bright star'.

The habitats occupied by all three populations are generally woodland and dry sclerophyll forests; however, the dominant species of Eucalypt present in each assemblage varies. It grows on sandy to clayey soil.

***Acacia meiantha* primarily reproduces clonally via suckers, which means that adult plants may comprise dense or diffuse clumps of stems arising from the roots of a single original plant. This makes it very difficult for conservationists to estimate the number of genetically distinct mature plants in an area.**

There are many unknowns about the biology of this species including the extent of seed set and the proportion of viable seed produced, as well as how the species responds to fire. Plants may regenerate quickly after fire events either from the soil seed bank or by re-sprouting and regenerating from shoots and roots. However, if fires are too frequent or there is a very long interval between fires it can be detrimental to the populations.

Support local action and help save the *Acacia meiantha*



Acacia meiantha flowers
Photo: Gavin Phillips/DPIE



Acacia meiantha pods (immature)
Photo: Gavin Phillips/DPIE

Acacia meiantha is endangered in New South Wales mainly due to habitat disturbance.

The threats to this species include:

- clearing for expansion of pine forestry plantation activities
- disturbance due to road maintenance and road widening
- low genetic diversity and number of stems due to some populations being susceptible to stochastic events
- illegal rubbish dumping along access to dam and power line infrastructure at the Clarence population site
- the potential for too-frequent fire to degrade or remove populations
- disturbance and degradation of populations due to recreational vehicles (e.g. 4WDs and trailbikes)
- poor knowledge of the species population size and distribution
- invasion of weeds such as African lovegrass, St John's wort, blackberry, apple and pine
- grazing and trampling by livestock.

Saving our Species (SoS) is working in partnership with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, National Parks and Wildlife Service and a range of other organisations and private landowners to save the *Acacia meiantha*.

Cover photo: Barradam-bang wattle, Gavin Phillips/DPIE
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EES 2020/0496: December 2020

Three priority management sites have been identified in New South Wales: Aarons Pass in Mid-Western Regional Local Government Area (LGA), Mullions Range in Cabonne LGA and Clarence in Lithgow LGA.

The recovery effort aims to:

- minimise damage/impact to plants during road maintenance works at sites where populations occur along roadsides
- engage the community through signage along roadsides near populations
- minimise damage/impacts to plants during forestry activities near Mullions Range populations
- control weed infestations, particularly pine wildlings, where they occur near existing populations.

You too can help

If you want to help managers look after *Acacia meiantha* or care for other threatened species, you can find out more about volunteering and threatened species research projects at environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS

SoS is a NSW Government flagship program targeting on-ground action to secure threatened plants and animals from extinction. The program aims to increase the number of species that can survive securely in the wild.

SoS can only succeed if we work together. We need your support to ensure that today's actions help to secure the future of NSW's threatened species.

Find out more about threatened species in New South Wales and the SoS program at environment.nsw.gov.au/SOS