



Plant assemblages of the Billeranga System as originally described in Beard (1976)

Summary description

The community occurs in the Billeranga Hills in the north-eastern Wheatbelt of Western Australia. It generally comprises: *Melaleuca filifolia* (wiry honeymyrtle) – *Allocasuarina campestris* thicket on clay sands over laterite on slopes and ridges; open mallee over mixed scrub on yellow sand over gravel on western slopes; *Eucalyptus loxophleba* (York gum) woodland over sandy clay loam or rocky clay on lower slopes and creeklines; and mixed scrub or scrub dominated by *Dodonaea inaequifolia* over red brown loamy soils on the slopes and ridges. The community was originally described in Beard (1976).



Distribution

The community is restricted to the Billeranga Hills, with an extent of 20km. The hills are located 15km west of Morawa, in the north-eastern Wheatbelt.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Region: Midwest
DBCA Districts: Murchison, Turquoise Coast

Local Government Authorities: Shire of Morawa, Shire of Three Springs

Habitat requirements

The plant assemblages of the Billeranga System cover the outcrop of the Billeranga group of Proterozoic rocks as expressed in the Billeranga Hills. They have a particular series of plant assemblages recurring in a catenary sequence or mosaic pattern linked to topographic, pedological and/or geological features. This catenary sequence or 'System' has a distinctive geology, topography and vegetation, different from that of any other comparable system.

Indigenous interests

Traditional Owner group: Amangu Yamatji

A register of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites kept by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage lists several sites of Aboriginal significance in the vicinity of this community's occurrences.



Joint management of Mount Nunn Nature Reserve is undertaken by the Bundi Yamatji Aboriginal Corporation and the State Government through the Yamatji Nation Indigenous Land Use Agreement. The Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation represents the Traditional Owners and is the native title representative body for the Yamatji region.

Conservation status

State: Listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Threatened ecological communities are declared environmentally sensitive areas under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Threatening processes

The major threats to the community are grazing by sheep and other introduced herbivores, weed invasion, altered fire regimes, and a warming and drying climate.

Recovery plan

An interim recovery plan has been produced for this community, outlining the recovery actions that are required to reduce threats and maintain or improve its overall condition. Recommended actions include fencing occurrences to exclude stock, weed control, flora monitoring, liaising with key stakeholders, developing a fire management strategy, and acquiring land for conservation as opportunities arise.

Key references

Beard, J. S. (1976). *Vegetation Survey of Western Australia. The vegetation of the Perenjori area, Western Australia: map and explanatory memoir, 1:250,000 series*. Vegmap Publications.

Hamilton-Brown, S. (2000). *Plant assemblages of the Billeranga System: Interim Recovery Plan 2000–2003* (Interim Recovery Plan No. 71). Department of Conservation and Land Management.

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