THE BLACK PLUM HUNT

Planchonella eerwah SPECIES RECOVERY PLAN

Planchonella eerwah fruit - image Paten Park Nursery (PPN)

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Interested stakeholders, including local councils, Landcare and local environmental groups and individuals have come together to help save *Planchonella eerwah,* commonly known as the Black Plum from extinction.

It is listed as endangered under the Commonwealth's Endangered Species Protection Act as well as Queensland's Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. The species was presumed extinct for a large part of last century until its rediscovery at Ivory's Knob, southwest of Ipswich in 1980.

Existing records show that there are 160-180 known individual trees left in its range from the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Logan, Ipswich and Scenic Rim regions of SEQ.

We have come together to create a Species Recovery Plan. The first steps we have identified include:

- **checking existing records to see if the individual trees still exist and their condition.**
- **surveying areas to identify potentially new unrecorded individual trees or populations.**
- **conduct genetic testing of different populations.**

We are at the beginning stages to find out what we are working with.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As a Private Land Owner in the Land For Wildlife program, you can help by joining the great Black Plum Hunt, and searching for this species on your land.

Imagine finding this rare and endangered species on your land and adding to the knowledge and known population of this species.

IDENTIFYING THE BLACK PLUM

HABITAT

A great place for you to start is searching for typical *Planchonella eerwah* habitat on your land.

It grows on well-drained high rocky slopes and ridges in vine thickets and dry rainforest. Soils are derived from sandstone with some volcanic materials in places.

Another great place to look for this tree is in gullies or ravines which often capture moisture to allow this dry rainforest tree to thrive.

Dominant associated species in southern populations include hoop pine (Araucaria cunninghamii), Tulipwood (Harpullia pendula), and members of the genus Flindersia.

Dominant associated species in the northern populations include White Booyong was Argyrodendron (currently Heritiera trifoliolata), Broad Leaved Whitewood (Atalaya multiflora), Giant Ironwood (previously Choricarpia subargentea, currently Backhousia subargentea), Scrub Poison Tree (Excoecaria dallachyana), and Crow's Ash (Flindersia australis).

SIZE AND SHAPE

Planchonella eerwah grows up to 40 metres tall and has a thin trunk with a compact canopy.

FOLIAGE

Planchonella eerwah is also commonly known as the Shiny-Leaved Condoo. This is because the foliage is very glossy. Some other distinguishing features of the leaves are:

- they are egg or splatulate-shaped, 4 - 14cm in length, leathery and hairless, with raised veins on both surfaces.
- young branchlets are greyish, hairy and exude a milky latex when cut.

BARK & ROOTS

The bark of this species is greyish brown with deep vertical fissures and lighter horizontal fissures. The roots on larger specimens are prominent above the soil level.

FLOWERS & FRUIT

The flowers are bell shaped, cream in colour, very small and inconspicuous.

The fruits are firm-fleshed, spherical, 3–6 cm long, red-purple to black, and contain two to five seeds. They look like cowrie shells.

Flowers and fruits occur throughout the year with peak flowering from August to January.

WHAT IF I FIND A TREE?

If your hunt for the elusive Black Plum proves to be fruitful (excuse the pun) then we would like to hear from you!

Please contact your local Land For Wildlife officer and report the discovery.

Imagine being the custodian of this endangered species, an exclusive club, considering that there are only 160-180 individual trees of the species recorded.

Your Land For Wildlife officer may want to visit your property to verify the discovery and record its gps coordinates and particulars.

As we move forward with the Species Recovery Plan, your discovery may well play an important role in the recovery of the species from the brink of extinction.

Planchonella eerwah
SPECIES RECOVERY PLAN