

Ginninderry Conservation Corridor

Pale Pomaderris Survey

September 2022



Prepared by Maya Potapowicz

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Several species of *Pomaderris* can be found in the Ginninderry Conservation Corridor. When visiting the corridor, Rainer Rehwinkel noted one shrub which he identified as Pale *Pomaderris* (*Pomaderris pallida*). Pale *Pomaderris* is listed as Vulnerable under the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. It is included on the ACT rare plants list as a protected plant. Subsequently, the plant was sampled so the identification of the plant could be verified by David Albrecht (Australian National Herbarium, CSIRO).

On Monday the 7th of September, Maya Potapowicz, assisted by Bridie and Rachel of the Ginninderry Conservation Trust (GCT) searched approximately 12km of suitable habitat along the Murrumbidgee River but failed to find any more Pale *Pomaderris* plants. It is possible that more plants may exist within very dense patches of shrubs in steep sections of the riparian corridor which were not accessible. Rob Armstrong (Senior Threatened Species Officer, NSW Department of Planning and Environment) advised that single or uncommon plants of Pale *Pomaderris* often occur downstream of a larger population (pers.comm. 6/9/22). A larger population is known to occur in Ginninderra Falls where the single plant located in the corridor is likely to have come from. As we know the location of the source population, genetic testing is unlikely to be beneficial.

The existing plant must be protected but fencing is not recommended as it is likely to bring attention to that specific plant which grows in the open but near patches of other similar *Pomaderris* species. All staff working within the area should be made aware of its location to prevent accidental clearing or spraying with herbicides during weed control works. One way GCT can facilitate this, is by retaining herbarium samples of the local *Pomaderris* to inform staff. Maya Potapowicz has taken several samples of the diverse range of *Pomaderris* which will be pressed and handed back to the GCT when fully preserved.

While a Management plan is not necessary for one single plant, it is recommended that monitoring of the plant be undertaken regularly to assess the health of the plant and search for signs of reproduction. Any seedlings which arise should be protected by tree guards until they reach maturity. As *Pomaderris* are generally sensitive to fire, an ecological burn or hazard reduction burn may destroy the plant. Wildfire, however, may encourage germination of any seeds in the area (Armstrong, R. pers. comm. 6/9/22).

Rob advises that *Pomaderris* species will grow from cuttings. If GCT wishes to propagate the Pale *Pomaderris* (or any other native plant) using material from within the corridor, they will require a licence under the ACT *Nature Conservation Act 2014*.

Within the corridor, managed by the GCT as at September 2022, several other species of *Pomaderris* exist and can be confused with Pale *Pomaderris*. Other species of *Pomaderris* observed during the site visit on the 7/9/22 included *Pomaderris angustifolia*, *Pomaderris eriocephala* and *Pomaderris intermedia*.

About the Author

Maya Potapowicz is a Canberra based botanist with over 20 years experience in vegetation survey and monitoring, environmental assessment, conservation assessment and conservation covenants. Maya has been involved in multiple surveys, census and monitoring of various threatened flora. Maya has used this data in the preparation of impact assessment and the design of suitable avoidance, minimisation or mitigation measures.