Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Asparagus aethiopicus* L. Common name: basket asparagus

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	A much branched, spiny herb with stems 30 to 60cm long and well developed spines (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002). Can occur in coastal sand dunes. May impede individual access.	**ML**	**MH**
2. Reduce tourism?	Ornamental foliage (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002). Can smother ground cover and occur in some recreational areas. Plant may have minor effect on aesthetics and inhibit some recreational activities.	**ML**	**MH**
3. Injurious to people?	Plant has 'well developed spines 5 to 10mm long' (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002). Spines at most times of the year.	**MH**	**MH**
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Ornamental foliage and can smother ground cover (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002). May have moderate visual effect if occurs at cultural sites.	**ML**	**MH**
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002).	**L**	**MH**
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002).	**L**	**MH**
7. Increase soil erosion?	Thick mat of tuberous roots. Plant doesn't die back and leave bare soil exposed. (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002). May help to bind soil. Low probability of large scale soil movement.	**L**	**MH**
8. Reduce biomass?	'Smothers ground cover and can prevent regeneration of canopy species' (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002), but also produces a large mass of underground tubers (Vivian-Smith *et al.* 2006). The large underground biomass is likely to increase biomass.	**L**	**MH**
9. Change fire regime?	The mass of underground organs completely suppresses other species (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002), however flammability of this plant is unknown. Insufficient evidence to determine whether plant may alter fire regime.	**M**	**L**
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC=Valley Grassy Forest (BCS =V); CMA=Glenelg Hopkins; Bioreg=Greater Grampians; CLIMATE potential=VH. 'The mass of underground organs, together with the numerous seedlings produced, completely suppresses other species' (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002). Major displacement of some dominant spp. within the lower strata.	**MH**	**MH**
(b) medium value EVC	EVC=Semi-arid woodland (BCS =D); CMA=Mallee; Bioreg=Lowan Mallee; CLIMATE potential=VH. 'The mass of underground organs, together with the numerous seedlings produced, completely suppresses other species' (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002). Major displacement of some dominant spp. within the lower strata.	**MH**	**MH**

Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Asparagus aethiopicus* L. Common name: basket asparagus

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
(c) low value EVC	EVC=Lowan Sands Mallee (BCS =LC); CMA=Wimmera; Bioreg=Lowan Mallee; CLIMATE potential=VH. 'The mass of underground organs, together with the numerous seedlings produced, completely suppresses other species' (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002). Major displacement of some dominant spp. within the lower strata.	**MH**	**MH**
11. Impact on structure?	'The mass of underground organs, together with the numerous seedlings produced, completely suppresses other species' (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002). The area beneath mature asparagus fern can be devoid of other species (Breaden *et al.* 2006). Major effect on lower strata.	**MH**	**MH**
12. Effect on threatened flora?	This species is a risk to threatened species in NSW (Downey 2006) but not documented to have an additional effect on threatened flora in Victoria.	**MH**	**L**
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	Species not documented to have an additional effect on threatened fauna.	**MH**	**L**
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	'The mass of underground organs, together with the numerous seedlings produced, completely suppresses other species' (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002). Effect on animals not documented although possible that the species may reduce habitat and food supply of non-threatened fauna.	**ML**	**MH**
15. Benefits fauna?	Berries are eaten by native birds (Breaden *et al.* 2006).	**MH**	**H**
16. Injurious to fauna?	Weed produces spines (Parsons & Cuthbertson 2002). May be injurious to fauna species.	**MH**	**MH**
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	Species not documented as a food source to pest species.	**L**	**MH**
18. Provides harbor?	Species not documented as providing harbour to pest species.	**L**	**MH**
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	Not documented as a weed of agriculture in references that would be expected to report this, vis: Parsons & Cuthbertson (2001) or the 'Asparagus weeds best practise manual' (DWLBC 2006).	**L**	**M**
20. Impact quality?	Not documented as a weed of agriculture in references that would be expected to report this, vis: Parsons & Cuthbertson (2001) or the 'Asparagus weeds best practise manual' (DWLBC 2006).	**L**	**M**
21. Affect land value?	Not documented as a weed of agriculture in references that would be expected to report this, vis: Parsons & Cuthbertson (2001) or the 'Asparagus weeds best practise manual' (DWLBC 2006).	**L**	**M**

Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Asparagus aethiopicus* L. Common name: basket asparagus

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
22. Change land use?	Not documented as a weed of agriculture in references that would be expected to report this, vis: Parsons & Cuthbertson (2001) or the 'Asparagus weeds best practise manual' (DWLBC 2006).	**L**	**M**
23. Increase harvest costs?	Not documented as a weed of agriculture in references that would be expected to report this, vis: Parsons & Cuthbertson (2001) or the 'Asparagus weeds best practise manual' (DWLBC 2006).	**L**	**M**
24. Disease host/vector?	Not a known host or vector for disease of agriculture. Not documented in references that would be expected to report this, vis: Parsons & Cuthbertson (2002) or the 'Asparagus weeds best practise manual' (DWLBC 2006).	**L**	**M**