

Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Erica lusitanica* Rudolphi

Common name: Spanish heath

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	A heathy plant can grow to between 1 and 3m and dominate the shrub layer (Weber 2003). Therefore an impediment to individual access.	ML	MH
2. Reduce tourism?	Can be mistaken for the native species <i>E. impressa</i> (Blood 2001). Introduced as an ornamental species, could alter the aesthetics.	ML	L
3. Injurious to people?	No injuries reported.	L	M
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Introduced as an ornamental species, could alter the aesthetics.	ML	L
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species	L	M
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species	L	M
7. Increase soil erosion?	Competitive species with a strong root system (Blood 2001 and Weber 2003). Would therefore be equal to the displaced vegetation, if not reduce erosion by invading gaps.	ML	MH
8. Reduce biomass?	Shrubby species that can dominate the lower stratum (Weber 2003). Displacement would be a direct or potentially an increase in the case of grassland or more open habitats.	ML	MH
9. Change fire regime?	Has potential to increase biomass, and quickly regenerates after fire (Muyt 2001). This could alter both the fire intensity and frequency.	MH	M
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC= Creepline Herb-rich Woodland (E); CMA= Corangamite; Bioreg= Victorian Volcanic Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. Can completely dominate the lower stratum, eliminating all native species and preventing regeneration (Weber 2003).	H	MH
(b) medium value EVC	EVC= Wet Heathland (D); CMA= Corangamite; Bioreg= Otway Ranges; VH CLIMATE potential. Can completely dominate the lower stratum, eliminating all native species and preventing regeneration (Weber 2003).	H	MH
(c) low value EVC	EVC= Wet Heathland (LC); CMA= Corangamite; Bioreg= Otway Plains; VH CLIMATE potential. Can completely dominate the lower stratum, eliminating all native species and preventing regeneration (Weber 2003).	H	MH

Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Erica lusitanica* Rudolphi

Common name: Spanish heath

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
11. Impact on structure?	Can completely dominate the lower stratum, eliminating all native species and preventing regeneration (Weber 2003).	MH	MH
12. Effect on threatened flora?	Can completely dominate the lower strata and prevent regeneration (Weber 2003).	MH	M
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	Unknown.	MH	L
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	Alteration of habitat; eliminates native species (Weber 2003). Therefore altering habitat structure and potential food sources.	MH	M
15. Benefits fauna?	Flowers profusely during in winter and spring (Muyt 2001). May therefore provide some resources for native species.	MH	M
16. Injurious to fauna?	No evidence of this reported.	L	M
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	Flowers profusely during in winter and spring (Muyt 2001). Therefore probably visited by bees.	ML	M
18. Provides harbour?	Creates dense shrubby vegetation, could therefore harbour many different species (Muyt 2001).	M	M
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	Invasive in weak pasture and not palatable to stock (Blood 2001). Therefore where it invades it can reduce the production capacity.	ML	MH
20. Impact quality?	No evidence of this reported.	L	M
21. Affect land value?	No evidence of this reported.	L	M
22. Change land use?	No evidence of this reported.	L	M

Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Erica lusitanica* Rudolphi

Common name: Spanish heath

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
23. Increase harvest costs?	No evidence of this reported.	L	M
24. Disease host/vector?	No evidence of this reported.	L	M