



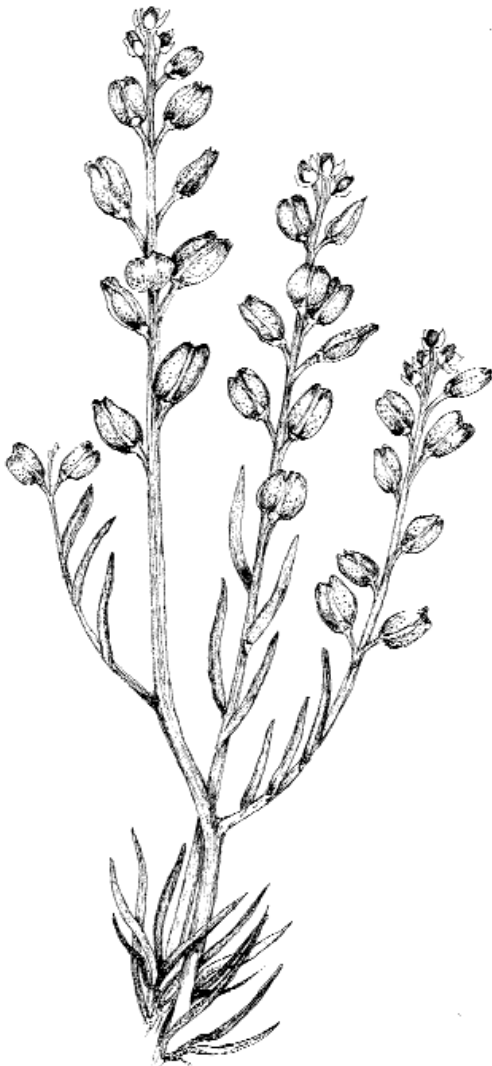
## THREATENED SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES OF THE ACT

# Ginninderra Peppercross (*Lepidium ginninderrense*)

An endangered species

Issued: 18 May 2006

The Ginninderra Peppercross (*Lepidium ginninderrense*) is a perennial herb growing to a maximum height of about 20 cm, with one to six branched stems arising from a rootstock. Stems are striate and moderately papillose. Leaves are thick and fleshy, and shiny on the upper surface. Rosette leaves are widely spaced and very narrow (1.5 to 2.0 mm wide) and 15-55 mm long. The inflorescence is an elongating raceme with a maximum



length of 15 cm. Flowers are small, 2 mm wide and 1.5 mm long. Sepals are green and less than 1 mm long and about 0.5 mm wide. Petals are absent.

The only extant population of this species occurs in the north-west corner of Belconnen Naval Transmission Station in the suburb of Lawson in the ACT (which is the type locality). This site is on the flood plain of Ginninderra Creek, in Natural Temperate Grassland dominated by *Austrostipa* spp. and *Bothriochloa macra*. The site was estimated in May 2000 as containing approximately 2,200 plants of this species. The species is not known from outside the ACT.

It is believed that *L. ginninderrense* has declined as a result of modification and destruction of its grassy habitat.

## CONSERVATION THREATS

The main threat to the survival of *L. ginninderrense* are likely to be:

- urban infill, and deliberate or unintended actions associated with visitor and/or land management activities in the local area; and
- inappropriate management leading to loss of such habitat.

## CONSERVATION ACTIONS

Actions to assist with the conservation of the species include:

- annual monitoring of the population of the species and encouraging research into the species;
- advising field workers, interested naturalists and conservation groups of the presence of the species to increase the potential of other populations being identified;

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- discouraging visitor access to the area;
- liaising with the NSW Dept of Environment and Conservation to encourage surveys of potential habitat outside the ACT;
- supporting reservation under the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* (ACT) of the Lawson grassland;
- seeking expert advice on best practices for management of the species;
- on advice from the CSIRO Plant Industry, collecting seed to establish new populations at other locations, and storing remaining seed under appropriate conditions; and
- exploring opportunities to involve the local community in park care activities as part of the management of the proposed reserve.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

The primary source of information for this information sheet is the ACT Lowland Native Grassland Conservation Strategy—Action Plan No. 28, where a full bibliography is available.

Action plans are available online at [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au) or by calling Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

#### **Acknowledgement**

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