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***Stylidium tepperianum*** is a tiny plant which grows only on Kangaroo Island off the coast of South Australia. Reaching a maximum height of 10 centimetres, it can be identified by its dense rosettes of leaves and pink or white four petalled flowers which grow on reddish stalks. *Stylidium tepperianum* is found in coastal woodland and heath habitat and is classified in South Australia as Rare. This Genus (also known as trigger plants) produce pollen on a reproductive hammer that is cocked back behind the flower. When an insect visits the flower, this triggers the hammer to flick forward and cover the insect with pollen that is then carried to other plants for pollination.

### Description

This tiny, perennial herb reaches only 10 centimetres in height. Its stems grow along the ground and have dense rosettes of leaves at the nodes. The leaves are stiff and narrow, growing 9 millimetres long but only 1 millimetre wide. *Stylidium tepperianum* has reddish-brown branches and flower stalks. Flowers range in colour from white to pink. The orange seeds are 7 millimetres long by 4 millimetres wide.

### Key Facts

**Common name:** Kangaroo Island Trigger Plant

**Historical notes:** Discovered in 1886

**Conservation status (state):** Rare (SA)

**Conservation Status (EPBC):** Not listed

**Maximum height:** 10 centimetres

**Lifespan:** Over 20 years

**Flowering season:** November - December

## Distribution

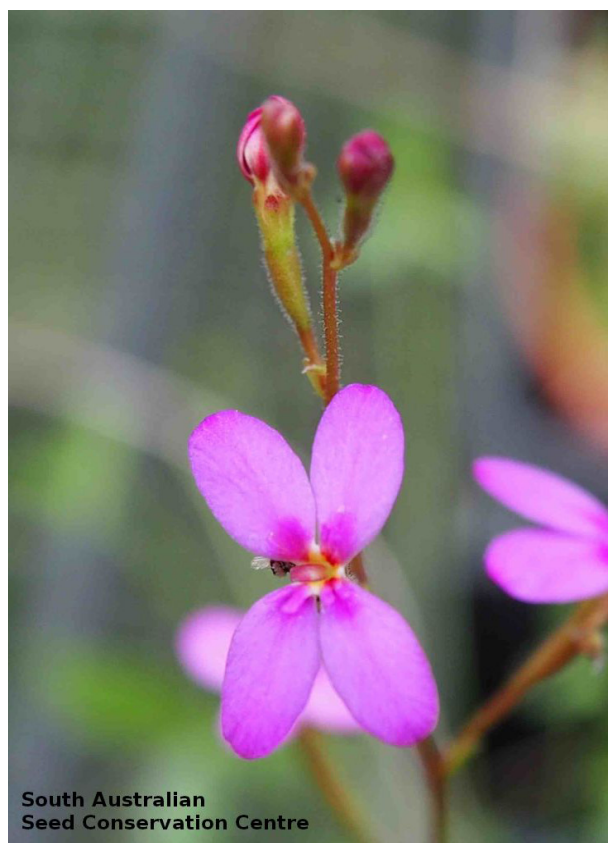
Found only on Kangaroo Island which is located off the coast of South Australia.

## Habitat and Ecology

*Stylidium tepperianum* grows mainly in coastal woodland and heath habitat. It prefers shallow pockets of sandy soil on limestone pavement.

## Name Origins

The name *Stylidium* comes from the Greek word 'stylos', meaning column. This refers to the fused stamens and style which form a column. The species, *tepperianum* is named after Johann Gottlieb Otto Tepper (1841 - 1923) who collected the type specimen from Kangaroo Island in 1886.



## Conservation activities by the Australian Seed Bank Partnership

In 2020-21, the South Australian Seed Conservation Centre assessed species recovery in one- and two-year old fire scars on Kangaroo Island, and a total of 4,600 seeds were collected and banked from a population in the Seal Bay region. Germination screening was also undertaken in 2021 to test the response of this species to fire cues. In 2021-22, other populations are targets for further assessment and seed collection on the western side of the Island.

## References

[http://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Stylidiaceae/Stylidium/Stylidium\\_tepperianum.html](http://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Stylidiaceae/Stylidium/Stylidium_tepperianum.html)

Download other fact sheets in this series at:

<https://www.seedpartnership.org.au/initiatives/bushfire-recovery/banking-seeds-for-bushfire-recovery/>



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