



Callistemon forresterae is a striking coloured shrub known as Forrester's Bottlebrush. It is listed as Vulnerable in Victoria and nationally. This species is found in rocky sites along the Upper Genoa River which flows from southern New South Wales into eastern Victoria. Staff at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria were able to conduct germination testing through the Banking on seeds for bushfire recovery project. This research determined the optimal temperature range for *Callistemon forresterae* germination. From this study a number of seedlings for this species were produced. These will be planted in situ by the Friends of Mallacoota.

Description

Callistemon forresterae is an erect shrub growing to 1.2 metres with grey papery bark. Leaves are narrow and linear, up to 4.3 centimetres long and covered in oil glands, making them fragrant when crushed. The leaves are leathery to the touch. Flowers are mauve with purple anthers. They grow in long 'bottle-brush' spikes up to 12 centimetres long.

Key Facts

Common name: Forrester's Bottlebrush

Conservation status (state): Vulnerable (Vic)

Conservation status (EPBC): Vulnerable

Maximum height: 1.2 metres

Lifespan: Not known

Flowering season: October - January

Distribution

Callistemon forresterae is endemic to the Upper Genoa River in southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria.

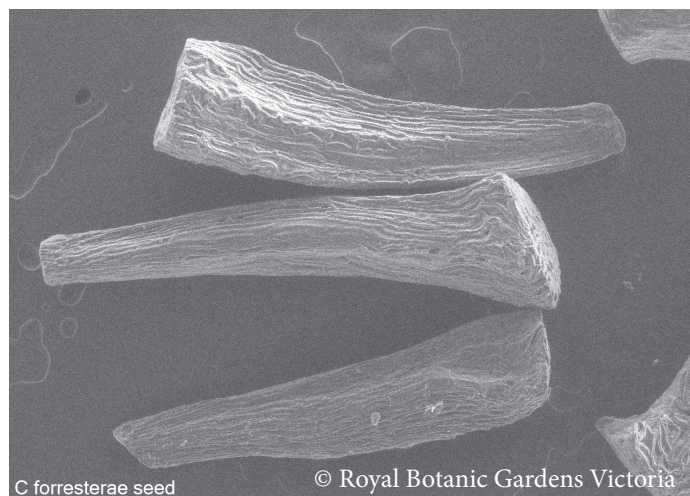
Habitat and Ecology

This species is found in rocky riparian sites on the margins of the Genoa River.



Conservation activities by the Australian Seed Bank Partnership

Staff at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria assessed seed viability of ex situ seed collections of *Callistemon forresterae* and determined the optimal temperature range for highest germination by conducting a thermal threshold experiment. They found germination can occur within a week at high temperatures with no pre-germination treatment. Considering the mean monthly maximum and minimum temperature records from its range, the summer period is the preferred window for germination activities to take place in the wild. Plants produced during this study were provided to the Friends of Mallacoota who will look to reintroduce them in situ.



References

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/1310b34a-83c8-41be-aea4-fecbdae9e142>



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
BOTANIC GARDENS



Australian Network for
Plant Conservation Inc



Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions



Botanic Gardens of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



ROYAL
BOTANIC GARDENS
VICTORIA



The Royal
BOTANIC GARDENS
& Domain Trust

This fact sheet was produced with funding awarded under Tranche 2 of the Australian Government's Bushfire Recovery for Wildlife and Habitat Community Grants Program.

Download other fact sheets in this series at:

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