

# Threatened Species Assessment

## *Swainsona luteola* Dwarf Darling-pea

### Description

*Swainsona luteola* (F.Muell.)

Prostrate, procumbent or semi-erect perennial herb, to 50 cm tall; stems sparsely or densely pubescent with straight or irregular, loosely appressed basifixed hairs. Leaves mostly 3–10 cm long; leaflets 3–17, narrow-elliptic to obovate, 5–20 mm long, 3–10 mm wide, apices obtuse to acute, glabrous above, pubescent below; stipules oblique, 2–5 mm long. Racemes mostly 5–15-flowered; flowers 6–8 mm long; calyx pubescent, teeth equal to or longer than tube; petals purple or sometimes yellow; standard 6–9 mm long, 5–8 mm wide, suborbicular, clawed; keel 5–8.5 mm long, obtuse, apex lipped and somewhat twisted; style tip incurled, beard minute or absent. Pod ellipsoid to narrow-obloid, mostly 20–35 mm long, 3–8 mm wide, inflated, glabrous or sparsely pubescent, stipe to c. 2 mm long; seeds to c. 20, cordate to reniform, c. 2 mm long, brown. Flowers Aug.–Nov. (VicFlora 2021)

### Current conservation status

Listed as Threatened in Victoria under *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

### Proposed conservation status

Extinct (EX) in Victoria.

### Criteria for Extinct status

As per Schedule 1 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020, the primary criterion for the category of threat 'extinct' is met if–

- (a) exhaustive surveys throughout the taxon's historic range fail to record an individual member of the taxon; and
- (b) those surveys were conducted over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form, in known or expected habitat and at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual).

Historical records of the species were retrieved from the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. A 50km buffer was placed around each location, and all surveys of appropriate surveying method to date were retrieved. There are no records of *S. luteola* in the VBA since 1966.

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas search results	
Number of known historical locations	1
Last known record	1966
Total recorded surveys to date within 50km of all historical locations	
Survey methods searched	External data, Monitoring, Quadrat

\***External data:** Additional observation records collected by third parties. **Monitoring:** Observations recorded from surveys of bushfire hazard mapping surveys, pre-harvest surveys, indicator- or all-species assessments, etc. **Quadrat:** Square vegetation quadrats to measure vegetation attributes of an area (plant density, frequency, biomass, etc.)



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## Historical distribution

Known in Victoria by a single 1966 collection from riverine woodland west of Mildura. Now presumed extinct in the State. Also Qld, NSW.

The name *S. luteola* was misapplied to some early records of *S. pyrophila*. Consequently, some references may suggest a wider Victorian distribution for *S. luteola* than is warranted. (VicFlora 2021)

## References

VicFlora (2021). Flora of Victoria. Flora of Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria: *Swainsona luteola*. Retrieved from: <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/482428e1-60d9-4bb6-b7df-ae3ed8116fb6>