

Australian Capital Territory

Nature Conservation (Baeuerlen's Gentian) Conservation Advice 2019

Notifiable instrument NI2019–708

made under the

Nature Conservation Act 2014, s 90C (Conservation advice)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Nature Conservation (Baeuerlen's Gentian) Conservation Advice 2019*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after its notification day.

3 Conservation advice for Baeuerlen's Gentian

Schedule 1 sets out the conservation advice for Baeuerlen's Gentian (*Gentiana baeuerlenii*).

Arthur Georges
Chair, Scientific Committee
6 November 2019

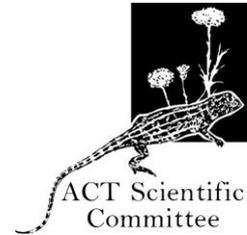
Schedule 1

(see s 3)



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development



CONSERVATION ADVICE

BAEUERLEN'S GENTIAN

Gentiana baeuerlenii

CONSERVATION STATUS

Baeuerlen's Gentian *Gentiana baeuerlenii* L.G.Adams, is recognised as threatened in the following jurisdictions:

National **Endangered**, *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

ACT **Endangered**, *Nature Conservation Act 2014*

NSW **Endangered**, *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*

ELIGIBILITY

The factors that make the Baeuerlen's Gentian eligible for listing as Endangered in the ACT Threatened Native Species List are included in the Listing Background section below.

DESCRIPTION AND ECOLOGY

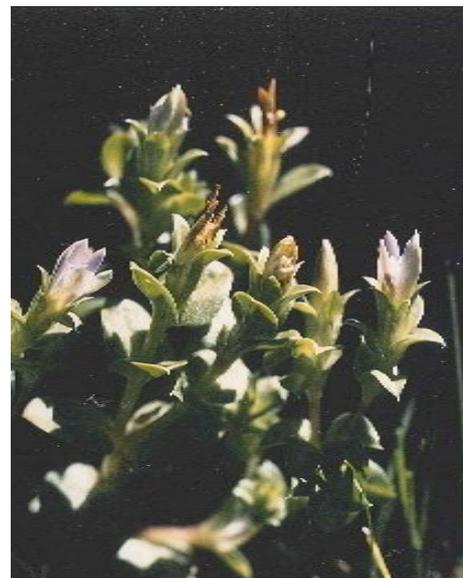
Baeuerlen's Gentian is a small annual herb, standing 2–4 cm high. Each plant has 1–3 bell-shaped flowers that are greenish outside and blue-white inside (Flora and Fauna Committee 1996).

The ACT population has been recorded as flowering between autumn and early winter (March–June) and it appears to be an annual, dependent on seed regeneration. (Act Government 2017).

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

Baeuerlen's Gentian was described from specimens found near Bombala (NSW) in 1887 where it is no longer extant. It was not observed again until 1991 when 20 plants were accidentally discovered in a moist grassland in the Orroral Valley reducing to less than 10 plants in 1994 (Flora and Fauna Committee 1996). This reduced to four plants in 1998 with annual surveys unsuccessful in locating any plants since then.

The species occurs in the inter-tussock space of moist tussock grassland and sedgeland (*Poa labillardieri* and *Carex gaudichaudii*), possibly spring-fed. The site is on the lower slopes of a broad valley above a river and it is very unlikely the species exists anywhere else in the ACT. (ACT Government 2017).



Baeuerlen's Gentian (ACT Government)

THREATS

The main identified threats in the ACT action plan (ACT Government 2017) include:

- unintended park management actions
- feral pig rooting
- insufficient understanding of species competition, grazing, trampling and fire.

Climate change and the resulting decreased rainfall in recent years, particularly in autumn and winter, may adversely impact this species as it is dependent on seepage areas remaining moist (OEH 2019).

MAJOR CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the action plan (ACT Government 2017) is to preserve Baeuerlen's Gentian in perpetuity in the wild across its natural geographic range in the ACT including the need to maintain natural evolutionary processes.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

The ACT is likely to contain the only remaining site of Baeuerlen's Gentian and its conservation is critical to the survival of the species. Due to the nature of this species and the small size of the site, management actions are directed towards maintaining existing conditions and ensuring activities located nearby do not adversely affect the site. Conservation actions identified in the ACT action plan (ACT Government 2017) include:

- protect the ACT site
- manage habitat to maintain suitability for the species
- monitor site and effects of management actions
- manage adjacent grassland to facilitate expansion of populations.
- develop seed bank if germination occurs at suitable numbers
- research ecology, habitat and threats.

OTHER RELEVANT ADVICE, PLANS OR PRESCRIPTIONS

- ACT Native Grassland Conservation Strategy (ACT Government 2017)
- Commonwealth Conservation Advice — Baeuerlen's Gentian (TSSC 2015)
- Conservator Translocation Guidelines (ACT Government 2018)

LISTING BACKGROUND

The Baeuerlen's Gentian was listed in the ACT as an Endangered species on 15 April 1996 in accordance with section 21 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1980*. At that time, the Flora and Fauna Committee (now the Scientific Committee) concluded that the assessment satisfied the following criteria:

- 1.1 Species is known or suspected to occur in the ACT region and is already recognised as endangered or presumed extinct in an authoritative international or national listing.
- 1.2 Species is observed, estimated, inferred or suspected to be at risk of premature extinction in the ACT region in the near future, as demonstrated by:
 - 1.2.6 Extremely small population.

Baeuerlen's Gentian is eligible for listing as Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) as, prior to the commencement of the EPBC Act, it was listed as Endangered under the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992* (Cwth).

REFERENCES

- ACT Government 2017. *ACT Native Grassland Conservation Strategy and Action Plans*. ACT Government, Canberra. <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/View/di/2017-288/current/PDF/2017-288.PDF>
- ACT Government 2018. Nature Conservation (Translocation of Native Flora and Fauna) Conservator Guidelines. Department of Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development, Canberra. <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2017-650/>
- Canberra.naturemapr.org (CNM) 2019. *Canberra Nature Map*. Accessed 14 August 2019 from: <https://canberra.naturemapr.org/Community/Species/Sightings/3294?ViewMode=Detail>
- Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) 2019. *Baeuerlen's Gentian – profile*. OEH NSW, Sydney. Accessed 14 August 2019 from: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=10345>
- Environment ACT 2004. *Recovery Plan for a sub-alpine herb (*Gentiana baeuerlenii*)*. Environment ACT, Canberra.
- Flora and Fauna Committee 1996. *Recommendation for Declaration of an Endangered Species – *Gentiana baeuerlenii**. ACT Government, Canberra.
- Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) 2015. *Conservation Advice *Gentiana baeuerlenii* Baeuerlen's Gentian*. Department of the Environment, Canberra. Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/12001-conservation-advice-01102015.pdf>

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the species or other threatened species and ecological communities can be obtained from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD).
Phone: (02) 132281, EPSDD Website: <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr>