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Medicago scutellata - environmental weed risk assessment 2022

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Environmental weed risk assessment

Snail medic (*Medicago scutellata*)

Snail medic is a temperate annual pasture legume native to the Mediterranean region, which is well adapted to alkaline, cracking clay soils. A very minor pasture species in south-western Australia but is grown in subtropical environments like south-east Queensland as a winter-spring growing legume to complement summer growing grass pastures (Howie et al. 2007).

In experimental trials in northern Western Australia (WA) the annual legumes and herbs had good feed quality but in general, with low forage yields under irrigation, are unlikely to be economically viable (Moore et al. 2021).

Weed lists

National-international:

- Not listed in Weeds of Australia (398 weed species) <https://weeds.org.au/weeds-profiles/>
- Not listed on the Weeds of Australia website [Fact sheet Index \(lucidcentral.org\)](https://www.lucidcentral.org/fact-sheet-index/)
- In the Global Compendium of Weeds, snail medic is listed as an agricultural weed, casual alien, environmental weed, naturalised, weed (Randall 2017).

Western Australia:

- "...It has been recorded as naturalised" (Hussey et al. 2007).
- Recorded as naturalised in the following IBRA Regions of WA: Avon wheatbelt, Jarrah forest, Mallee and Warren (Keighery and Longman 2004).
- Not listed in Naturalised taxa recorded from conservation lands in Western Australia (Keighery 1991).



Figure 1 Distribution of snail medic (*Medicago scutellata*) in Australia
(Source: 'The Australasian Virtual Herbarium')

Environmental weed risk assessment

Assessed using the 'Environmental weed risk assessment protocol for growing non-indigenous plants in the Western Australian rangelands' (Moore et al. 2022)

Region	Filter A	Filter B	Weed Risk Assessment rating
	Is the species a weed in similar environments in Australia or overseas?	Is the species likely to persist in the environment without management*?	
Kimberley	No	No	Negligible to low
Pilbara	No	No	Negligible to low
Gascoyne – Goldfields	No	No	Negligible to low
Agricultural area	No	No	Negligible to low

*Without management means no fertiliser, Rhizobia, irrigation, grazing management or control of competition from other species

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- Keighery G, Longman V (2004) The naturalized vascular plants of Western Australia 1: Checklist, environmental weeds and distribution in IBRA regions. *Plant Protection Quarterly*, **19(1)**: 12-32.
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Assessment by G Moore and N Nazeri
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