

# 1 **Towards integrating and standardising information on plant invasions across Australia**

2 Martín-Forés, I.\*<sup>1,2</sup>, Guerin, G.R.<sup>1,2</sup>, Lewis, D.<sup>1,2</sup>, Gallagher, R.V.<sup>3</sup>, Vilà, M.<sup>4,5</sup>, Catford, J.A.<sup>6,7</sup>, Pauchard,  
3 A.<sup>8,9</sup> & Sparrow, B.<sup>1,2</sup>

4  
5 <sup>1</sup>School of Biological Sciences, The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia 5005, Australia

6 <sup>2</sup> Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN), University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia  
7 5005, Australia

8 <sup>3</sup>Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University, Richmond 2753, New South  
9 Wales, Australia

10 <sup>4</sup>Doñana Biological Station – Spanish National Research Council (EBD-CSIC), 41092 Sevilla, Spain

11 <sup>5</sup>Department of Plant Biology and Ecology, University of Sevilla, 41012 Sevilla, Spain

12 <sup>6</sup>Department of Geography, King's College London, London, WC2B 4BG, UK

13 <sup>7</sup>School of Agriculture, Food & Ecosystem Sciences, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Vic 3010,  
14 Australia

15 <sup>8</sup>Faculty of Forestry Sciences, University of Concepcion, Concepcion, Chile

16 <sup>9</sup>Institute of Ecology and Biodiversity (IEB), Chile

17

18 \*Corresponding author: [irene.martin@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:irene.martin@adelaide.edu.au)

19

## 20 **Abstract**

21 Over the last decades, terminology to refer to invasion status along the introduction-naturalisation-  
22 invasion continuum have been based either on overcome barriers or on impact-based frameworks,  
23 generating debates within the scientific community. The lack of agreement with regards to  
24 definitions have sometimes hampered combining information from sources based on different  
25 criteria. In Australia, information on plant invasions is contributed independently from different  
26 jurisdictions, which has led to inconsistencies regarding both, terminology to refer to invasion  
27 ecology, and invasion status at the national level, therefore impeding efficient management. In this  
28 paper, we review and discuss the steps taken to harmonise the different terminologies used across  
29 Australian states, we identify the mismatches in introduction at the jurisdictional and national scales  
30 and proposed detailed prioritisation systems to tackle mismatches at both scales and to integrate  
31 information into a standardised system at the national scale. This integration exercise has made  
32 possible the creation of a standardised dataset at the Australian national scale (the Alien Flora of  
33 Australia). In Australia, having an integrated system for referring to and tracking alien flora can, not  
34 only aid early warning and prevention of introduced species, but also facilitate decision-making at

35 the jurisdictional levels, and biosecurity measures at the national scale. We also highlight the  
36 opportunities arising from integrating contrasting information into the continental scale.

37

## 38 **Introduction**

39 Biological invasions have increasingly gained attention over the past decades within the scientific  
40 community (Nuñez et al. 2022), that recognises the importance of having high quality, easy-to-  
41 access, standardised and unified data sources (Latombe et al. 2017). Having standardised datasets at  
42 large spatial scales allows tracking and monitoring the status of biological invasions, making future  
43 predictions and prioritizing invasion-based management actions (Hulme et al. 2009; Le Roux et al.  
44 2020). Despite the increase in the number of publications on biological invasions over the last three  
45 decades, within the same period ongoing debates have also taken place. Debates include discussions  
46 about the taxonomy of biological invasions (Pyšek et al. 2013), terminology used to refer to invasion  
47 status for species that appear outside of their native range (Colautti and Richardson, 2009; Young  
48 and Larson, 2011), determinants of invasion success (Daly et al. 2023) and impact (Simberloff et al.  
49 2013), or even about how to delimit and define native range (Guiaşu et al. 2016). Hence,  
50 inconsistencies have arisen, subsequently impacting the accuracy and implications of classifying  
51 plant species into native and alien (Guiaşu et al. 2016).

52 There are many terms to refer to ‘species occurring in ecosystems to which they are not indigenous’,  
53 including non-indigenous, non-native, exotic, and alien, among others. The term ‘alien’ was  
54 introduced by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nairobi in 1992 without any specific  
55 definition being provided for it (United Nations, 1992). To alleviate the confusion around biological  
56 invasion terminology, Richardson et al. (2000) proposed the concept of the introduction-  
57 naturalization-invasion continuum, by which a species introduced into a new area received different  
58 names according to the barriers it overcame. As such, casual aliens are those that have been  
59 transported beyond the limits of their native range; only a fraction of casual aliens become  
60 naturalised, that is, forming self-sustaining populations; and only a fraction of the naturalised  
61 become invasive, overcoming local dispersal barriers and spreading in the new region. According to  
62 Richardson et al. (2000) the subset of invasive species able to impact and change the nature of the  
63 environment were called ‘transformers’, whereas ‘weed’ was a common term for undesired species  
64 regardless of their native or alien origin (Fig. 1a).

65 The same year, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) incorporated the concept  
66 of negative impact into the definition of invasive species as “alien species which becomes  
67 established in natural or semi-natural ecosystems or habitats, and are an agent of change,  
68 threatening native biological diversity” (IUCN, 2000). Two years later, in 2002, the CBD recognises

69 invasive alien species (IAS) as “species introduced outside their native range that have become  
70 successfully established and cause substantial impacts on the environment” (Fig. 1b). In 2006, the  
71 IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) developed the Global Register for Introduced and  
72 Invasive Species (GRIIS) as a concept and prototype to be subsequently reviewed before  
73 implementation across several countries globally. The methods underpinning the GRIIS and the  
74 guidelines for the checklists of alien species to be implemented by individual countries were not  
75 published until 2018 (Pagdad et al. 2018) and only implemented in the subsequent years. In 2022, a  
76 collation of the GRIIS data across 196 countries was published into the country compendium of the  
77 GRIIS (Pagdad et al. 2022). The GRIIS follows the impact-based notion of invasive species, to refer to  
78 those having a harmful impact in the native community (Fig. 1b).

79 In 2011, a decade after the definitions for invasive species were proposed by Richardson et al. (2000)  
80 and the CBD (2002), Blackburn et al. (2011) published a unified framework on biological invasions to  
81 address terminology inconsistencies. The framework is very comprehensive and integrative, and  
82 successfully reconciled different synonyms to refer to similar invasion stages along the continuum  
83 (Fig. 1c); nowadays it is recognised as the main framework by invasion ecologists.

84 In the last few years, other schemes emerged, such is the case of the Darwin Core (Darwin Core  
85 Maintenance Group, 2021a), proposed by the Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG). The  
86 Darwin Core published concepts to refer to biological invasions in 2020; despite being based on  
87 Blackburn et al. (2011) and classifying species regardless of their impact, it added a dimension of  
88 complexity. According to the Darwin Core, the classification appears split in two dimensions:  
89 establishment means (Darwin Core Maintenance Group, 2021b), to refer to origin (i.e., native,  
90 introduced or uncertain) and degree of establishment (Darwin Core Maintenance Group, 2021c), to  
91 refer to the position along the continuum. However, what Blackburn et al. (2011) had successfully  
92 simplified and unified, Darwin Core further divided it into more specific categories introducing new  
93 stages such as ‘reproducing’, ‘colonising’, or ‘widespread invasive’ (Fig. 1d).

94 It seems that despite several attempts to harmonise different concepts and ideas, the terminology  
95 to refer to further invasion stages within the continuum has not become consistent over time. The  
96 need for consensus and the differences between concepts have been further argued and debated  
97 considerably in the scientific literature on invasion ecology. More recent attempts to clarify  
98 definitions with and without intrinsically including impact, proposed to refer to invasive species with  
99 negative impact as ‘harmful invasive’ (Essl et al. 2020).

100 There are currently over 13,000 vascular plant species naturalised outside their native range in the  
101 world (van Kleunen et al. 2015, 2019). While the number of high-quality, freely accessible online  
102 databases for alien flora at the regional scales have considerably increased in the last decades, their

103 ultimate value to be applied into management actions depends on the feasibility of integrating the  
104 information they contain at larger spatial scales (Latombe et al. 2017; Luo et al. 2011). This is  
105 especially important when the data sources to combine follow different criteria.

106 Australia is a clear example of inconsistencies among plant censuses data sources, making the  
107 integration of the recorded information an arduous task. Australia is the sixth largest country in the  
108 world, with an overall surface almost comparable to the European continent. It is a unique country  
109 in terms of biodiversity and has one of the highest levels of endemism (Gallagher et al. 2021).  
110 Despite having one of the strongest biosecurity systems in the world, it does not have a national-  
111 wide data on alien species, and taxa introduction in Australia keeps increasing steadily over time  
112 (CSIRO, 2020).

113 Australia's jurisdictions are held by six independent states (New South Wales – NSW; Queensland –  
114 QLD; South Australia – SA; Tasmania – TAS; Victoria – VIC; and Western Australia – WA) and two  
115 main territories (the Australian Capital Territory – ACT; and the Northern Territory – NT), hereafter  
116 referred as 'states' for simplicity. Australia's plant censuses, including information on whether a  
117 species is native or introduced, have been developed at a jurisdictional level by government  
118 environment departments, therefore there are currently eight plant censuses at the state level. At  
119 the national level, there is one existing plant census that provides information for the whole  
120 Australia, the Australian Plant Census (APC) (Australian Plant Census, 2022), that provides  
121 authoritative data for names and published taxon concepts for native and naturalised taxa in  
122 Australia. Despite being federally managed, the APC provides information on a state-by-state basis,  
123 without appearing combined at the national scale; as such, there is no way to know if a certain taxon  
124 is considered native to Australia or not. In addition, the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive  
125 Species (GRIIS) was recently published for Australia (Randall et al. 2022), classifying, among taxa  
126 from other kingdoms, the alien flora of Australia into introduced and invasive. However, the criteria  
127 for species' inclusion and status are based on impact (Pagad et al. 2018), and for certain species  
128 appear unclear.

129 The different data sources (ten in total) following different criteria has resulted in inconsistencies at  
130 the Australian national level (Martin-Fores et al. 2023). To overcome mismatches caused by  
131 jurisdictional boundaries and enable efficient management and biosecurity of biological invasions by  
132 the Australian federal government, a consensus on clearer definitions, concepts and classifications  
133 across Australia is much needed.

134 To harmonise the different criteria followed by independent jurisdictions, here we: i) propose a  
135 framework to refer to plant invasions in Australia, resulting from the combination of all different  
136 frameworks used in the data sources to combine; ii) cross-reference the information between

137 different data sources at the state level and at the national level to identify mismatches, iii) propose  
138 a system to address mismatches at the state level and at the national level in order to unify  
139 contrasting invasion statuses, iv) provide up-to-date information of the Australian alien flora in  
140 numbers.

141 We developed this harmonisation steps as an integration exercise parallel to a data paper in which  
142 we developed a much-needed automated system able to cross-reference and integrate all the  
143 existing datasets across Australia. As a result, we recently published the Alien Flora of Australia (AFA)  
144 (Martin-Fores et al. 2023), a unified and standardised dataset including invasion status for the  
145 Australian flora at the national scale. We hope that both the harmonised framework proposed here,  
146 and the standardised dataset we have created in parallel will provide a strong evidence-base for  
147 planning and informing actions for prevention and to mitigate risks at the Australian national scale.

148

## 149 **Methodology**

### 150 *The terminology used in Australian plant censuses*

151 The APC (Australian Plant Census 2022) displays together information on taxon distribution and  
152 introduction statuses contributed by different jurisdictions. It is mostly based on the terminology  
153 used by Blackburn et al. (2011) (Fig. 1c) and it classifies taxa as native, naturalised, or with uncertain  
154 origin. It follows a system of Boolean flags that are stated together for each state and main territory;  
155 therefore, in some instances, a few statuses are displayed for a single taxon in each territory. For  
156 example, a taxon recorded in one state as 'native and naturalised and uncertain origin' is a taxon  
157 native to such state but naturalised in other areas within the same state but where the taxon was  
158 not originally considered native and appearing in other areas of the same state in which it is  
159 uncertain whether the taxon was considered native or not.

160 The Australian GRIIS (Randall et al. 2022) follows the impact-based definition of 'invasive' (Fig. 1b),  
161 therefore classifying alien species as introduced or invasive based on evidence of negative impact for  
162 those species that are known to be an agent of change and threaten native biodiversity (Pagad et al.  
163 2015,2018). Thus, 'invasive' on the GRIIS should not include native species (although see native-alien  
164 category in Pagad et al. (2018)), but only alien ones.

165 Regarding the plant censuses at the jurisdictional level, the ACT census (Lepschi et al. 2019) classifies  
166 taxa as native or exotic, providing information for potential or former (not for current) naturalisation  
167 in the territory; the terms employed can be easily translated ones adapted to Blackburn et al. (2011)  
168 (Fig. 1c). The censuses for NT (Northern Territory Herbarium, 2015), NSW (PlantNET, 2022) and SA  
169 (Department for Environment and Water, 2022) classify taxa in a binary way as either native or  
170 introduced, without further information on progression along the continuum. According to the

171 herbarium keys for the plant censuses of Tasmania (de Salas and Baker, 2022) and WA (Western  
172 Australian Herbarium, 2022), the information provided therein refers to the native or naturalised  
173 status for plant taxa. Queensland's census (Laidlaw, 2022) follows a structure similar to the one for  
174 the APC, stating for each taxon whether it is native, or naturalised (or doubtfully or formerly  
175 naturalised); its information is therefore more comparable to the one on APC and easily adapted to  
176 Blackburn et al. (2011) (Fig. 1c). Finally, the census for Victoria (VicFlora, 2023), follows the Darwin  
177 Core and classifies taxa according to their establishment means and degree of establishment (Fig.  
178 1d).

179

### 180 *Terminology integration*

181 We use the concept of the continuum in the harmonised terminology presented here, we therefore  
182 kept and selected terms based on an adaptation from Blackburn's framework (Blackburn et al. 2011)  
183 that are intuitive and compatible with Australian data sources. We made this decision because we  
184 wanted to follow terminology that was not impact-based as closely as possible, and Blackburn's  
185 framework is the most recognised internationally and the most directly comparable with the  
186 terminology employed on the APC.

187 We therefore proposed an adapted framework (Fig. 2), by which information about presence  
188 (present/extinct), origin (native/introduced/uncertain) and invasion status along the continuum  
189 (casual/ naturalised/invasive) are provided in a combined manner for all data sources. Accordingly,  
190 we used 'introduced' where information on an alien taxon status along the continuum had not been  
191 provided in a given Australian data source (e.g. in the case of binary censuses like SA). We neither  
192 included 'casual' nor 'invasive', because most of the censuses lacked detailed information on the  
193 spread and dispersal within the introduced range. According to the definitions presented by Essl et  
194 al. (2020), we replaced the term 'invasive' used on the Australian GRIIS (Randall et al. 2022) by  
195 'harmful invasive', acknowledging that this definition of invasive explicitly incorporates negative  
196 impact. In addition, for native taxa that are also recorded as naturalised or doubtfully naturalised  
197 within the same jurisdiction, we used 'native colonising' and 'native potentially colonising'  
198 acknowledging a mere reflection of dispersal but not impact. Finally, for taxa no longer present in a  
199 given state we used 'presumed extinct' for native taxa and 'formerly introduced' for alien taxa (Fig.  
200 2). Our proposed framework therefore includes the following terms: native (also native potentially  
201 colonising and native colonising), introduced (also doubtfully or formerly), naturalised (also  
202 doubtfully or formerly), harmful invasive, presumed extinct, and uncertain origin. Certain categories  
203 (e.g. doubtfully introduced, doubtfully naturalised, formerly naturalised) specified on the APC, and  
204 therefore appearing in this terminology and the one used in the Alien Flora of Australia (AFA), do not

205 have a direct translation into other frameworks such as the impact-based ones and the Darwin Core  
206 concepts. For this reason, and to accommodate to Australian states like Victoria, where its census  
207 follows the Darwin Core scheme, we provide equivalences to the Darwin Core for the harmonised  
208 terminologies used here. To facilitate understanding of the different terminology when used at both  
209 state and national level, we have provided a glossary with specific meanings for each term at both  
210 scales and according to different sources of vocabulary for invasion ecology (Table 1).

211

#### 212 *Identification of mismatches regarding introduction status*

213 We used the system and associated script we developed in parallel to create a unified and  
214 standardised dataset of alien flora in Australia, the Alien Flora of Australia (AFA) (Martin-Fores et al.  
215 2023). The script is available on github (<https://github.com/MartinFores/AAFSS>) and Figshare  
216 (<https://figshare.com/s/14c1e7eca0e57540cce9>). The script allows curating all the data sources and  
217 converting the terms used in each of them to the ones we proposed in the harmonised framework  
218 above-explained. Afterwards the script automatically detects mismatches at the jurisdictional level  
219 by comparing the information on invasion status recorded for each taxon on each of the plant  
220 censuses and the taxonomic distribution and invasion status provided on the APC for each of the  
221 states. The result of the comparison between the state plant censuses and the distribution  
222 information recorded on the APC appears clearly specified in the state-by-state datasets composing  
223 the AFA. The script then addresses the mismatches at the jurisdictional level (see next section for  
224 details).

225 In a subsequent step, the script combines the information provided at the state level into a national  
226 invasion status and compares such national status with the one provided on the GRIIS. The script  
227 automatically detects mismatches at the national level and subsequently address them by combining  
228 contrasting statuses into a unified national status (see next sections for details) (see Martin-Fores et  
229 al. 2023 for details on methodology related to the steps followed to design the script to detect  
230 mismatches in invasion status at the state and territory levels in Australia).

231

#### 232 *Prioritisation system to unify introduction status at the Australian jurisdictional level in case of* 233 *contrasting information*

234 We developed a prioritisation system to address mismatches on invasion status at the jurisdictional  
235 level in Australia. As such, when a species was not listed on the APC or was recorded on the APC as  
236 not present in a given state, we kept the introduction status recorded in the state plant census. For  
237 species that appeared in both sources but displayed a mismatch in the introduction status, we  
238 developed a prioritisation system in order to be as conservative as possible in terms of potential

239 implications and undesired effects associated with biological invasions. For example, a taxon  
240 recorded as naturalised in one state in one dataset but as introduced in the other dataset can more  
241 likely be a source of trouble if it is in fact naturalised; similarly, a taxon recorded as introduced and  
242 as native in one state, depending on the data source, can be more problematic if it is introduced.  
243 According to this, our system prioritises, for each taxon in each state, the recorded invasion status  
244 that has advanced the furthest along the continuum. As such, naturalised, followed by doubtfully  
245 naturalised, are prioritised over introduced, formerly naturalised, doubtfully introduced and  
246 formerly introduced. Any invasion status recorded within an alien category for a taxon is prioritised  
247 over uncertain origin, and those over native statuses, which include, in order of priority, native  
248 colonising, native potentially colonising, native, and finally presumed extinct (Fig. 3). In all  
249 component datasets developed at the state level as part of the AFA, we incorporated a new column  
250 with the unified status for each taxon in each state (See Martín-Forés et al. 2023 to access all the  
251 standardised regional datasets for all Australian states).

252

#### 253 *Prioritisation system to combine introduction statuses at the Australian national level*

254 The prioritisation procedure used to assign national status differed from the one used at state level  
255 as follows: if a taxon was native to at least one state, it was considered native to Australia (Fig. 4). If  
256 it was not 'native' to any state, but it was a native colonising (or native potentially colonising) in any  
257 state, it was considered as native colonising at the national scale; and if it was not native in any  
258 possible form to any state but recorded with uncertain origin in at least one state, we kept  
259 'uncertain origin'. If the taxon had not been recorded as native or having uncertain origin in any of  
260 the states, then the recorded invasion status that has advanced the furthest along the continuum  
261 was prioritise as a precautionary measure for addressing potential invasion and to be as  
262 conservative as possible when designing management and eradication programs at the national  
263 scale. Only if the species was not present in any state was it then recorded as presumed extinct at  
264 the national scale (Fig. 4).

265

#### 266 *Unifying introduction status at the Australian national level in case of contrasting information*

267 For each taxon, to elucidate the unified invasion status appearing on the AFA, we followed one  
268 simple step: for the species that were alien (in any form) to Australia at the national scale according  
269 to our system and that appeared recorded as 'invasive' according to the GRIIS, we changed their  
270 invasion status to 'harmful invasive' at the national scale.



271 When other mismatches were identified (e.g. species that are native to at least one Australian state  
272 but appeared recorded as introduced or invasive (i.e. harmful invasive) in the GRIIS), we kept the  
273 information obtained via our script.

274

## 275 **Results**

### 276 *The Australian native and alien flora in numbers*

277 According to the AFA, at the national level, there are 30,527 species, including both native and  
278 introduced species outside of cultivation. However, because some of them are only present in  
279 external territories and nine species did not have any distribution information recorded; across the  
280 six Australian states and two main territories, there are currently a total of 30,287 species listed,  
281 from which 3,487 records correspond to alien species (11.4% of the total number of species). From  
282 these alien species, 58 species are recorded as introduced (not known to have formed self-sustained  
283 populations to date), 3,352 species are recorded as naturalised (able to form self-sustained  
284 populations) and 77 as harmful invasive (which accounts for 2.2% of the total of alien plants  
285 introduced in Australia). Besides, there are currently 11 species at the national scale for which its  
286 origin is uncertain, and 22 species that are presumed to not be present anymore, either because of  
287 being extinct (recorded as presumed extinct) or presumed to have been eradicated or extinct  
288 (recorded as formerly introduced) (Table 2; Fig. 4). Deliberately introduced alien species for  
289 gardening and ornamental purposes that have not become alien outside of cultivation are not listed  
290 on the AFA and therefore not reported here.

291 The number of alien species across the Australian states ranged from 564 in the NT to over 1,900 in  
292 NSW, QLD and VIC. However, when considering the percentage of alien species across Australian  
293 states, this ranged from 10% in the NT and WA to over 38% in the ACT (Table 2; Fig. 4). Within the  
294 alien species in each state, the percentage of harmful invasive species for which there is evidence of  
295 negative impact according to the GRIIS, ranged from 2% in Tasmania to 4.4% in the NT (Table 2; Fig.  
296 4 ). Beyond state and federal use, these data can also be used to report on the global status of  
297 Australian biodiversity and to provide indicators of biological invasions.

298

### 299 *The mismatches across Australian alien flora data sources*

300 To report the mismatches in a more straightforward way, we grouped introduction status into higher  
301 classes. As such, native (any) includes all native, native potentially colonising and native colonising  
302 taxa; while alien (any) includes all introduced species regardless of their introduction status;  
303 introduced (any) includes all doubtfully introduced, introduced, and formerly naturalised taxa; and  
304 naturalised (any) includes all doubtfully naturalised and naturalised taxa. Subsequently, we grouped

305 the mismatches into several classes as follow: mismatches within groups, across alien groups (when  
306 they differ in the invasion status or the degree of establishment reported), and across different  
307 groups (native vs. alien). We also identified mismatches related to either taxa presence or origin  
308 uncertainty. Finally, the category 'other mismatches' referred to taxa that were either not listed or  
309 were an excluded taxon on the APC, taxa recorded as not present in a given state or lacking  
310 information about introduction status, and taxa that were pro-parte or pro-parte misapplied and  
311 therefore no accurate equivalence of taxonomy and status could be assigned (Table 3).

312 The degree of mismatches at the national scale between the data obtained by our script integrating  
313 unified statuses across Australian states and the GRIIS showed that, for all alien species, only four  
314 had similar statuses recorded in both data sources. There were 66 species that appeared as  
315 introduced according to the GRIIS despite being native to at least one Australian state (Table 3;  
316 although see supplemental table S.1 in Supplementary material for details). The case of *Phragmites*  
317 *australis* (Cav.) Trin. Ex Steud. is somewhat dire as it is native to all the Australian states except WA,  
318 but appears recorded as invasive, indeed, harmful invasive, on the GRIIS.

319 At the state scale, the mismatches detected ranged from 10% in QLD to over 40% for SA (Table 3).  
320 The lowest percentage of mismatches detected in QLD is most likely due to the fact that the QLD  
321 Herbarium uses the same terminology as the APC and therefore results more easily comparable as  
322 species fall within similar categories. On the contrary, the highest percentage was detected in a state  
323 that did not provide accurate information about the position along the continuum, and therefore  
324 most species could only be assigned to 'introduced'. The highest number of severe mismatches (i.e.  
325 those across native and alien groups) were, however, detected in VIC and TAS, with 281 and 115  
326 mismatches falling in this category (Table 3).

327

## 328 **Discussion**

329 By means of this integration exercise, we have been able to create the first standardised dataset on  
330 alien flora in Australia, to assess the inconsistencies among current data sources, and to provide an  
331 updated state-of-the-art of plant invasions across Australia. Having a free easy-to-update Alien Flora  
332 of Australia (AFA) standardised dataset at the national scale that combines all up-to-date Australian  
333 state and national vascular plant censuses, offers a highly valuable research infrastructure. This  
334 national infrastructure creates cost-effective new opportunities to study biological invasions at a  
335 large scale at a speed and performance appropriate for a broad range of stakeholders ranging from  
336 state and national government entities in Australia, both the national and international scientific  
337 community, biosecurity committees, land managers and the society in general.

338 We would like to clarify that this integration exercise provides a reflection of the diverse information  
339 reality existing in Australia. We have developed tools to be able to combine contrasting information,  
340 but we have not decided to classify any taxon differently from its statuses recorded in Australian  
341 plant censuses. From our point of view, mismatches on differing invasion statuses within groups (e.g.  
342 naturalised vs. doubtfully naturalised) are unlikely to be very problematic for management purposes.  
343 Nevertheless, mismatches across alien groups (e.g. introduced vs. naturalised) fail to provide  
344 accurate information on invasion status along the continuum therefore hampering to develop  
345 biosecurity strategies and prioritisation for invasion management or eradication. Finally, mismatches  
346 across different groups (e.g. native vs. naturalised) provide contradictory information and pose the  
347 highest risk to management and conservation because an alien species could be considered as native  
348 and managed as such or vice versa. Due to the high percentage of mismatches detected here, we  
349 urge Australian herbaria to adopt a unified scheme in the way they provide information in the state  
350 plant censuses. Ideally, the scheme they adopt should provide information on the stage of the plant  
351 taxon along the introduction-naturalisation-invasion continuum based on overcome barriers. We  
352 recommend herbaria to follow Blackburn et al. (2011) when classifying plant taxa; first, because of  
353 being the most internationally recognised framework on biological invasions; and second, because it  
354 splits the classification along the continuum in easily recognisable stages. Schemes with  
355 intermediate stages such as Darwin Core can be risky to implement, due to the fact that the time lag  
356 between consecutive phases (e.g. between a plant considered reproducing or naturalised) can be  
357 considerably reduced, therefore being difficult to ensure that a certain taxon is in one stage but not  
358 in the next one.

359 We also advise to limit the use of the term 'invasive' to refer to overcome barriers (e.g. Blackburn et  
360 al. 2011; Fig. 1c) and use instead 'harmful invasive' to refer to invasive taxa with negative impacts. In  
361 this sense, if impact wanted to be reported complementary steps in the future could include  
362 assessing the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of alien taxa following the EICAT (Hawkins  
363 et al. 2015) and SEICAT (Bacher et al. 2018) frameworks, respectively. These frameworks have been  
364 adopted by the IUCN to rank introduced species at the national scale (Wallingford et al. 2020) and  
365 could be used to inform and address impact in Australia.

366 One of the strengths of the AFA, is that the information for each plant species is easily comparable  
367 among all Australian states and at the national scale, with new opportunities arising from its use. To  
368 date, only 32 plant species that are likely to become harmful invaders have been incorporated into  
369 the Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) (Thorp and Lynch, 2000). Therefore, National  
370 Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreements (NEBRA, 2021) have only been developed for these  
371 species. We hope that the AFA resulting from this integration exercise assist predicting invasions

372 trends and identifying alien plant species introduced to Australia that are already naturalised in  
373 several states. For example, there are 77 species from extra-Australian origin that are recorded as  
374 naturalised in all Australian states (see supplemental table S.2 in Supplementary material); from  
375 them, only *Lycium ferocissimum* Miers is currently considered a WoNS and is included on the GRIIS  
376 as a harmful invasive. Even though such distribution can be a result of multiple introduction events,  
377 we could expect a species that is already naturalised in almost the whole Australia to become easily  
378 invasive. Species that are already recorded as naturalised in several states and that are known to  
379 have had negative impacts in other areas worldwide should be rapidly assessed for inclusion in both  
380 the GRIIS and WoNS.

381 In a similar manner, alien plant species that are currently appearing as doubtfully introduced or  
382 introduced in only one state, could be more susceptible to be the target of eradication efforts with  
383 funding allocated to the relevant state, to prevent further naturalisation and potential expansion  
384 into other Australian states.

385 Native plant species that are naturalised in other areas within the state to which they are native (i.e.  
386 recorded in the AFA at national scale as native colonising or native potentially colonising), could be  
387 associated with noticeable effects not only within their own region of origin but also in other states  
388 in which they might appear as introduced or naturalised. These range-expanding native species  
389 require specific attention (Essl et al. 2019). There are currently 103 species falling into the category  
390 of native colonising (see supplemental table S.3 in the Supplementary material for details). From  
391 these, 41 species are also introduced or naturalised into other Australian states (Supplementary  
392 material). This information should be an important consideration for land managers, and when  
393 designing conservation strategies. Monitoring those 41 species could also be implemented as part of  
394 internal biosecurity procedures in Australia to ensure that these species, despite being native, do not  
395 pose any harm to other Australian unique biota (Wallingford et al. 2020). It would be especially  
396 useful to monitor and model trends for those species under climate change. For those species  
397 expected to shift ranges associated with increasing temperatures or rainfall redistribution, this  
398 information would be crucial to apply pre-emptive management procedures.

399 We would like to highlight that the information provided here on plant invasions in Australia can be  
400 easily updated in the future with upcoming releases of the APC or any of the state floras. The script  
401 we created to develop the AFA can be used at any time to automatize this process in the future. This  
402 can be especially useful to monitor alien flora across Australia under global change, as certain alien  
403 taxa are predicted to expand or contract their distribution ranges, whereas others can shift their  
404 distribution attempting to track optimal environmental conditions in contiguous states.

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517



518 **Table 1. Glossary of terms used in the Australian Alien Flora Standardised System (AAFSS) adapted from Blackburn et al. (2011), with equivalent terms**  
 519 **used by Darwin Core, the Australian Plant Census (APC) and the Australian Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS).**

	Term used in AAFSS	Darwin Core establishment means [11]	Darwin Core [10] degree of establishment [12]	APC	GRIIS	Definition at the state level	Definition at the national level	
Native (any)	Native	Native	Native	Native	N/A	Native to a given Australian state without being naturalised in other areas of such state	Native to at least one Australian state regardless of being introduced or naturalised into other states	
	Native potentially colonising	Native	Native	Native and doubtfully naturalised	Native-alien	Native to a given Australian state being potentially naturalised in other areas of such state	Native to at least one Australian state in which it is also doubtfully naturalised regardless of being introduced or naturalised into other states	
	Native colonising	Native	Native	Native and naturalised	Native-alien	Native to a given Australian state although being also naturalised in other areas of such state	Native to at least one Australian state in which it is also naturalised regardless of being introduced or naturalised into other states	
Alien	Introduced (any)	Introduced	Introduced	-Casual -Introduced (Not enough information)	NA	Alien	Species that is an alien, and is recorded as introduced into a given state. [7,8]	Species that is not native to any Australian state and is introduced in at least one state. There is not specific information of its naturalisation in the combined data sources, therefore it is not possible to know.
		Doubtfully introduced	NA (we assumed it would still be introduced as casual)	NA	NA	NA	Species for which it is uncertain if it is introduced in a given state.	Species that is not native to any Australian state and is doubtfully naturalised in at least one state, without being known to be naturalised in any state (there are currently no vascular plant species recorded with this status at national scale).
		Formerly naturalised	NA (we assumed it would still be introduced)	NA	Formerly naturalised	Alien	Species that was known to have been introduced in the past into a given state. Although it could be presumed to have been eradicated,	Species that is not native to any Australian state and neither introduced or naturalised nor doubtfully introduced and doubtfully naturalised in any other state. It could be

		in a casual form)				it would most likely still be a casual alien.	presumed to have been eradicated although it is likely to still be a casual alien (there are currently 44 species under this category at national scale).
Naturalised (any)	Naturalised	Introduced	-Reproducing -Established	Naturalised	Alien	Fraction of introduced species that have been able to form unassisted self-sustaining populations [7,8]. The only species that was recoded as 'reproducing' [12] in one of the states has been grouped under this category	Species that is not native to any Australian state and is naturalised in at least one state.
	Doubtfully naturalised	Introduced	NA (unofficially referred to as adventive)	Doubtfully naturalised	Alien	Species that despite being introduced, it is unknown if it is able to form self-sustaining populations. In other sources, sometimes referred to as adventive.	Species that is not native to any Australian state and is doubtfully naturalised in at least one state, without being known to be naturalised in any state.
Invasive (any)	Invasive	Introduced	-Colonising -Invasive -Widespread invasive	NA	Alien	Naturalised species that have dispersed and spread in the invaded range at a significant distance from the introduction point, regardless of its impact within the invaded community [7,8,12].	
	Harmful invasive	Introduced	NA	NA	Invasive	Invasive alien species that is known to have a negative impact within the invaded range and/or to pose a threat to native biodiversity [7]. In the GRIIS referred to as invasive [32-34].	

Uncertain	Uncertain origin	Uncertain	NA	Uncertain origin	Cryptogenic Uncertain	Species for which its origin is not known to be native or introduced to a given state	Species of unknown origin that occurs in at least one state.
Other categories	Presumed extinct	NA	NA		NA	Species that was native to a given Australian state although is now presumed to be extinct	Species that is now presumed to be extinct in at least one Australian state and is not recorded to be present in any other form any other Australian state (there are currently 44 species under this category at national scale).
	Formerly introduced	NA	NA		N/A	Species that was known to have been introduced in the past into a given state, but there is no longer present. It could be presumed extinct or have been eradicated.	Species alien to Australia that has now been eradicated or is extinct in at least one Australian state and is not recorded to be present in any other Australian state (there is currently 1 species under this category at national scale).

521 **Table 2. Summary showing the number of species within each group (i.e. native, alien, uncertain origin and other categories), and percentage where**  
522 **indicated, regarding introduction status at national and state scales. Alien species at national scale are those for which origin is not Australian, whereas**  
523 **at the state level, alien species refer to those that could be native to other Australian territories. For alien species, the invasion status (e.g. introduced,**  
524 **naturalised and harmful invasive) has also been specified when known.** To facilitate understanding, native (any) includes native, native colonising and  
525 native potentially colonising; naturalised (any) includes naturalised and doubtfully naturalised; introduced (any) includes introduced, doubtfully introduced,  
526 and formerly naturalised, assuming that, most likely, there is still an introduced individual of such species; other categories include species that are  
527 presumed extinct and species that were formerly introduced; harmful invasive refers to alien species known to have a negative impact in the native biota.  
528 States and main territories have been abbreviated (the Australian Capital Territory, ACT; New South Wales, NSW; the Northern Territory, NT; Queensland,  
529 QLD; South Australia, SA; Tasmania, TAS; Victoria, VIC; Western Australia, WA).

Scale	Region	Total	Native total	Alien total (% of total)	Uncertain origin	Other categories	Alien species		
							Introduced	Naturalised	Harmful invasive (% of alien)
National*	Australia	30,557	26,796	3,487 (11.4)	11	22	58	3,352	77 (2.2)
Main territory	ACT	2,034	1,245	785 (38.6)	4	0	120	643	22 (2.8)
State	NSW	9,248	7,296	1,952 (21.1)	0	0	114	1,777	61 (3.1)
Main territory	NT	5,600	5,032	564 (10.1)	4	0	63	476	25 (4.4)
State	QLD	11,812	9,904	1,904 (16.1)	0	4	76	1,769	59 (3.1)
State	SA	5,686	3,940	1,739 (30.6)	3	4	203	1,487	49 (2.8)
State	TAS	3,167	2,181	970 (30.6)	2	14	105	847	18 (1.9)
State	VIC	6,018	3,932	1,989 (33.1)	80	17	121	1,819	49 (2.5)
State	WA	15,001	13,484	1,505 (10)	0	12	1	1,504	51 (3.3)

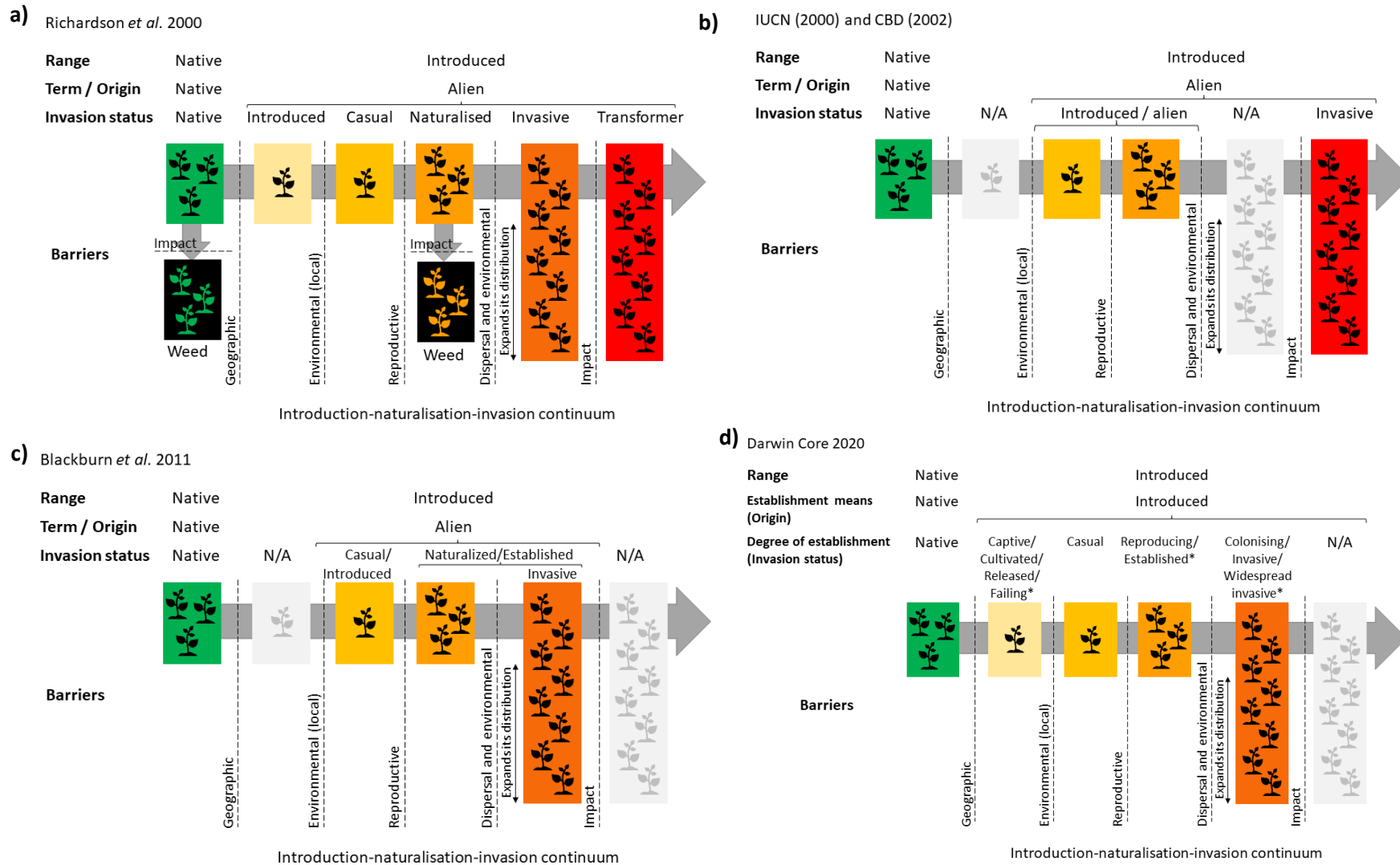
530 \*There are 29 species that are included in the database because of appearing on the Australian Plant Census (APC) but there are not recorded in any state  
531 or external territory. There are also 211 species that are included in the database but only appear in external territories.

**Table 3. Mismatches of the status assigned to species between different sources at the national scale (Australian Alien Flora Standardised System, AAFSS, vs. Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species, GRIIS) and state scale. Mismatches are organised as other (those not listed on the Australian Plant Census, APC, not recorded as present in such state, excluded taxa, pro-parte species for which matching with only one accepted species would be inaccurate without more information, or those with no status specified on the State census), within groups, across alien groups (i.e. different categories of introduced, naturalised and harmful invasive), those related with presence, those related with uncertainty, and those occurring across groups (native vs. introduced, naturalised and harmful invasive). Naturalised (any) includes naturalised and doubtfully naturalised; introduced (any) includes introduced, doubtfully introduced, and formerly naturalised, assuming that, most likely, there is still a casual individual of such species; native (any) includes native, native colonising and native potentially colonising. Not listed on the GRIIS refers only to alien species or those with uncertain origin that do not appear recorded on the GRIIS. States and main territories have been abbreviated (the Australian Capital Territory, ACT; New South Wales, NSW; the Northern Territory, NT; Queensland, QLD; South Australia, SA; Tasmania, TAS; Victoria, VIC; Western Australia, WA).**

		National AAFSS vs GRIIS	ACT	NSW	NT	State or main territory				
						QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Total		3494	1775	8760	5627	11998	5499	3101	6639	15219
Similar		4	1094	6297	4587	10740	3264	1900	4493	13145
Mismatch (%)		3490	681 (38.4)	2463 (28.1)	1040 (18.5)	1258 (10.5)	2235 (40.1)	1201 (38.7)	2146 (32.3)	2074 (13.6)
Across	Native (any) – Introduced (any)	65	3	15	18		16	13	13	
	Native (any) – Naturalised (any)		2	15	19	40	9	123	296	28
	Native (any) – Harmful invasive	1								
Across alien groups	Doubtfully introduced – Doubtfully naturalised		0		0			5		
	Introduced – Doubtfully naturalised	129	21	81	27		149	53	191	
	Formerly naturalised – Doubtfully naturalised		21		0	14		0		0
	Formerly naturalised – Naturalised		17		0	18		0	4	5
	Doubtfully introduced – Naturalised		0		0			2		

	Introduced – Naturalised	1958	368	1583	407		1198	591	157	
	Introduced (any) – Harmful invasive	0								
	Naturalised (any) – Harmful invasive	76								
Within groups	Native – Native colonising		10	56	6	25	10	4	26	66
	Native – Native potentially colonising		0	1	0	1	2	0	2	0
	Native colonising – Native potentially colonising		0	1	0	0	0	0	5	0
	Formerly naturalised – Introduced	13	12	4	6		10	3	6	
	Doubtfully naturalised – Naturalised		9		0	85		0	29	14
Presence related	Formerly introduced – Introduced (any)	0	0		2	0		3	57	
	Formerly introduced – Naturalised (any)		0		0	0		2	24	
	Formerly introduced – Native (any)		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Presumed extinct – Uncertain origin		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Presumed extinct – Native (any)		0	10	0	14	20	10	23	16
	Presumed extinct – Alien (any)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
Uncertain	Uncertain origin – Native (any)		3		4	0	2	2	74	0
	Uncertain origin – Introduced (any)	3	0		1		0	2	0	
	Uncertain origin – Naturalised (any)		1		1	0	0	0	15	0
	Uncertain origin – Harmful invasive	0								
Other	Not listed on the APC (or the GRIIS)	1306	44	233	399	821	505	153	1004	1773
	Not recorded as present in such State	4*	170	388	144	221	311	195	184	160
	Excluded, no status, or pro-parte and pro-parte misapplied species		0	76	6	19	2	40	31	12

\*Only recorded in external territories, therefore not appearing in our AAFSS at Australian national scale

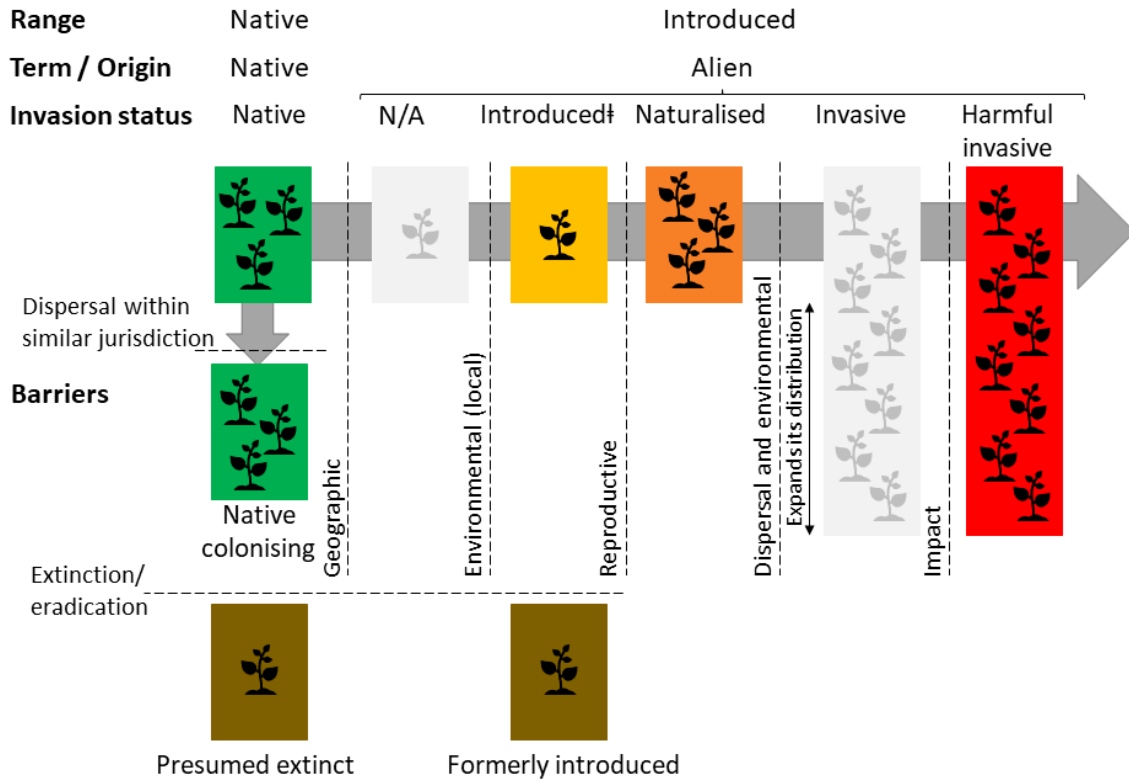


**Fig. 1. Frameworks on biological invasions proposed by: a) Richardson *et al.* (2000), b) CBD and IUCN, c) Blackburn *et al.* (2011) and d) Darwin Core.**

Terminology marked with \* in Darwin Core varies according to specific details within the considered barrier; therefore, the terms are not interchangeable.

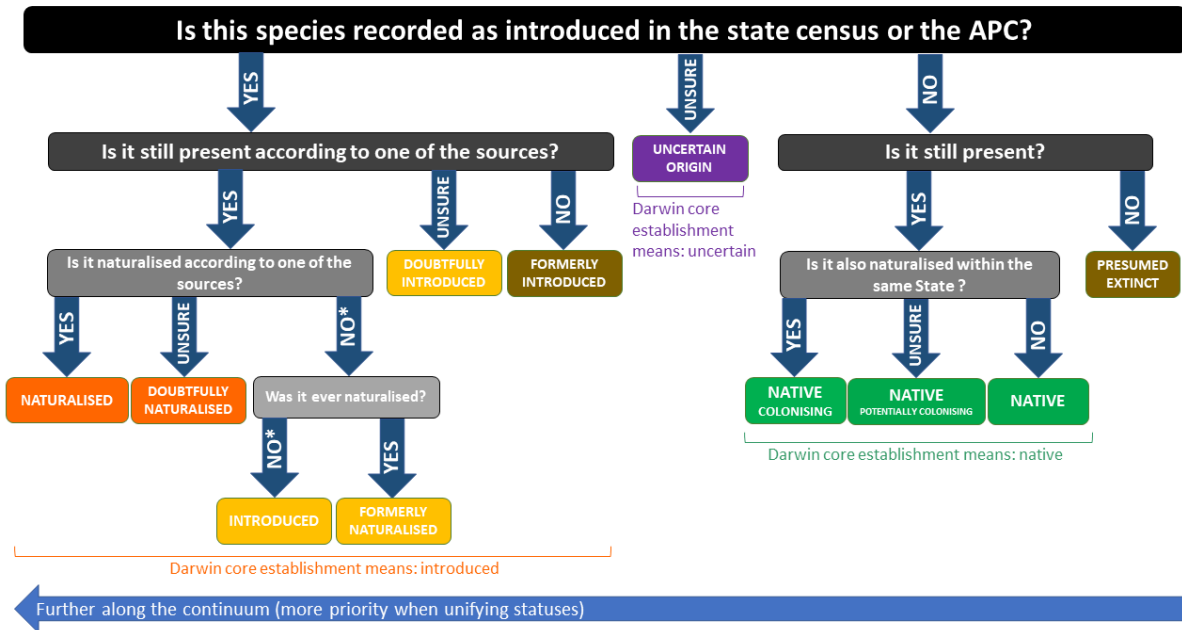


Harmonised terminology proposed for Australia



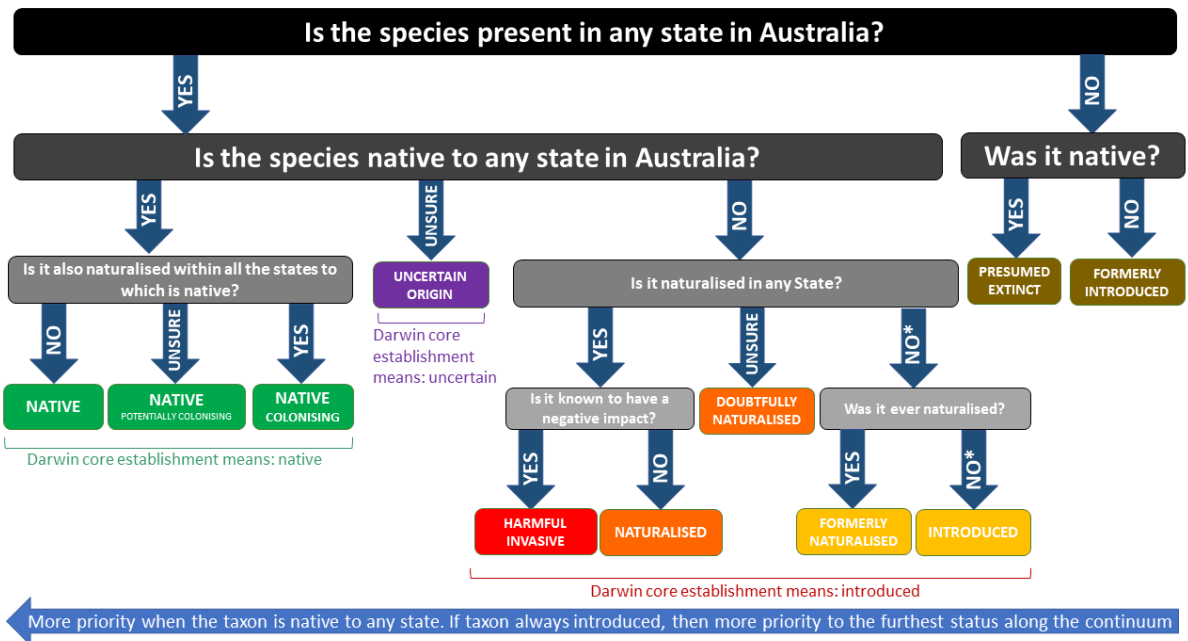
**Fig. 2. Harmonised framework to unify terminology on biological invasions across Australian data sources.** The unified terminology is based on Blackburn et al. (2011) but incorporating the notion of impact to account for the species recorded as invasive in the Australian Global Register for Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS) following the IUCN’s guidelines. The term ‘introduced’ marked with † in our proposed framework does not refer strictly to ‘casual’ alien species but has been used instead when information on naturalisation was not available in a specific census.

## PRIORITISATION PROCEDURE AT THE STATE LEVEL

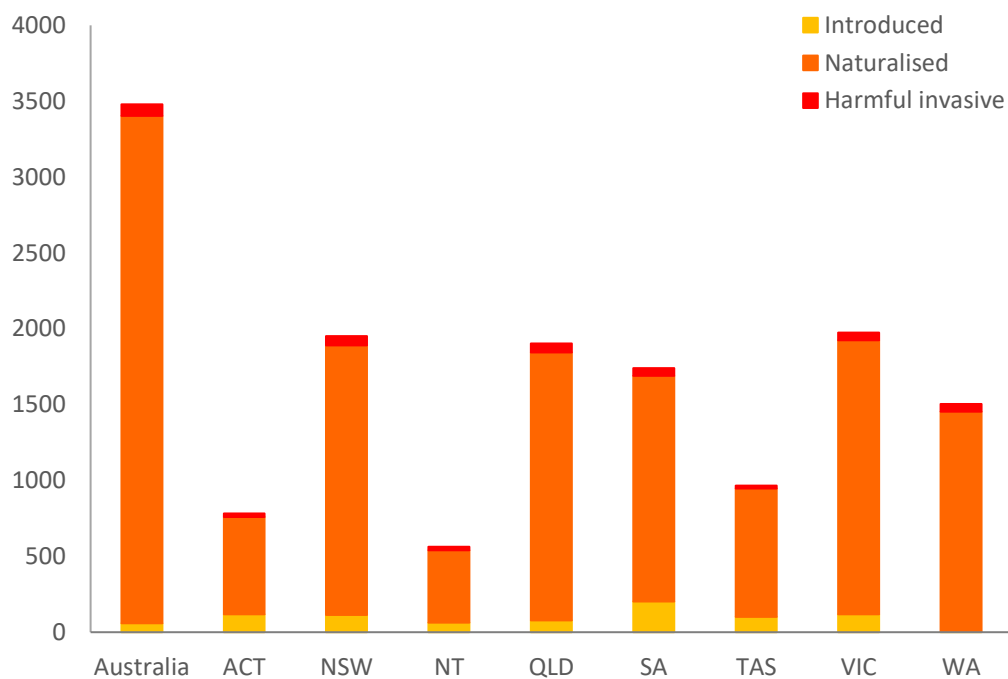
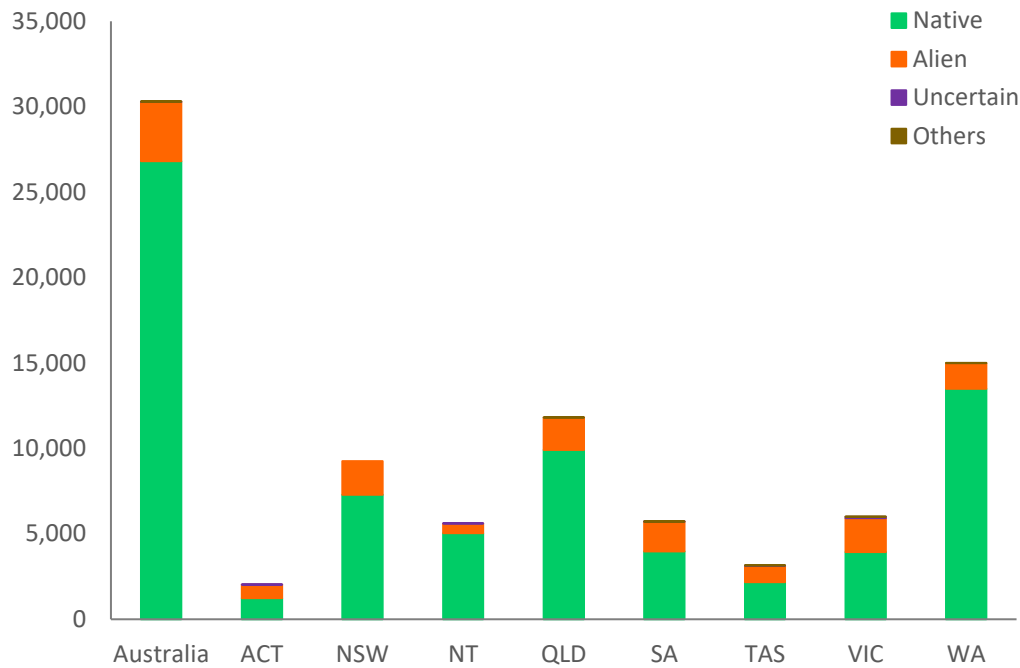


**Fig. 3. Prioritisation procedure to assign the most conservative introduction status for a given species in a given Australian state after comparing the records in the corresponding state census and in the Australian Plant Census (APC).** The status ‘naturalised’ refers to introduced species that form unassisted self-sustaining populations. \*Indicates that in some cases there is not enough information in the state censuses to respond to these questions; therefore we have assumed that the answer would be no. Darwin Core equivalences with regards to establishment means (native, introduced and uncertain) are also included.

**PRIORITISATION PROCEDURE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**



**Fig. 4. Prioritisation procedure to assign the national status for a given species after merging the most conservative statuses across all the Australian states.** The status ‘naturalised’ refers to introduced species that form unassisted self-sustaining populations. The status ‘harmful invasive’ was only assigned for the species that, being introduced at the national level, appeared recorded as invasive in the Australian GRIIS. \*Indicates that in some cases there is not enough information in the state censuses to respond to these questions, therefore we have assumed that the answer would be no. Darwin Core equivalences with regards to establishment means (native, introduced and uncertain) are also included.



**Fig. 4. Summary of the records of Australian flora in AAFSS at both the national and state scales with regards to (top) origin (native, alien, uncertain or other categories), and (bottom) within the alien flora, grouped by introduction status (introduced, naturalised and harmful invasive). States and main territories have also been abbreviated (the Australian Capital Territory, ACT; New South Wales, NSW; the Northern Territory, NT; Queensland, QLD; South Australia, SA; Tasmania, TAS; Victoria, VIC; Western Australia, WA).**

## Supplementary material

**Supplemental Table S.1. Scientific name according to the Australian Plant Census (APC) of the species that are introduced according to the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS) despite being native to at least one Australian state according to the Australian Alien Flora Standardised System.**

Species scientific name	
<i>Abelmoschus manihot</i> (L.) Medik.	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i> (Kunth) P.H.Raven
<i>Aeschynomene brevifolia</i> L.f. ex Poir.	<i>Lysimachia fortunei</i> Maxim.
<i>Alchemilla xanthochlora</i> Rothm.	<i>Lysimachia japonica</i> Thunb.
<i>Ammannia auriculata</i> Willd.	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i> L.
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> L.	<i>Malvastrum americanum</i> (L.) Torr.
<i>Apluda mutica</i> L.	<i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i> (L.) Garcke
<i>Bidens subalternans</i> DC.	<i>Melochia pyramidata</i> L.
<i>Blainvillea acmella</i> (L.) Philipson	<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i> (A.Cunn.) Meisn.
<i>Brassica fruticulosa</i> Cirillo	<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> L.
<i>Cardamine corymbosa</i> Hook.f.	<i>Oxalis latifolia</i> Kunth
<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i> L.	<i>Parietaria officinalis</i> L.
<i>Chenopodium glaucum</i> L.	<i>Persicaria strigosa</i> (R.Br.) H.Gross
<i>Clausena excavata</i> Burm.f.	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i> (L.) Greene
<i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.	<i>Phyllanthus tenellus</i> Roxb.
<i>Corchorus aestuans</i> L.	<i>Polygonum argyrocoleon</i> Steud. ex Kunze
<i>Corchorus olitorius</i> L.	<i>Polyscias scutellaria</i> (Burm.f.) Fosberg
<i>Corchorus trilocularis</i> L.	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> (L.) Kuhn
<i>Cucumis melo</i> L.	<i>Pupalia micrantha</i> Hauman
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.	<i>Sagina maritima</i> Don
<i>Dietes robinsoniana</i> (C.Moore & F.Muell.) Klatt	<i>Samolus valerandi</i> L.
<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i> L.	<i>Sida spinosa</i> L.
<i>Eriocaulon truncatum</i> Buch.-Ham. ex Mart.	<i>Sida subcordata</i> Span.
<i>Erodium aureum</i> Carolin	<i>Stuckenia pectinata</i> (L.) Borner
<i>Geranium aequale</i> (Bab.) Aedo	<i>Symphytum officinale</i> L.
<i>Gnaphalium polycaulon</i> Pers.	<i>Torilis arvensis</i> (Huds.) Link
<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i> L.	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.
<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i> L.	<i>Utricularia gibba</i> L.
<i>Indigofera glandulosa</i> J.C.Wendl.	<i>Vallisneria nana</i> R.Br.
<i>Isolepis marginata</i> (Thunb.) A.Dietr.	<i>Verbena officinalis</i> L.
<i>Juncus bufonius</i> L.	<i>Vicia cracca</i> L.
<i>Leucas decemdentata</i> (Willd.) Sm.	<i>Vigna adenantha</i> (G.Mey.) Maréchal, Mascherpa & Stainier
<i>Lobelia pedunculata</i> R.Br.	<i>Vigna radiata</i> (L.) R.Wilczek
<i>Ludwigia palustris</i> (L.) Elliott	<i>Vigna vexillata</i> (L.) A.Rich.

**Supplemental Table S.2. Scientific name according to the Australian Plant Census (APC) of the alien species not original from Australia that are naturalised in all Australian states. \* indicates that they are recorded as transformers in the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS). † indicates that they are included in the Weeds of National Significance (WoNS).**

Scientific name of species naturalised in all Australian states	
<i>Aizoon pubescens</i> Eckl. & Zeyh.	<i>Lolium perenne</i> L.
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i> (L.) K.Lewin	<i>Lolium rigidum</i> Gaudin
<i>Argemone ochroleuca</i> Sweet	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> Miers *†
<i>Argemone ochroleuca</i> Sweet subsp. <i>ochroleuca</i>	<i>Malva parviflora</i> L.
<i>Avena barbata</i> Pott ex Link	<i>Medicago minima</i> (L.) L. ex Bartal.
<i>Avena fatua</i> L.	<i>Medicago sativa</i> L.
<i>Brassica oleracea</i> L.	<i>Oenothera stricta</i> Ledeb. ex Link
<i>Briza maxima</i> L.	<i>Oenothera stricta</i> Ledeb. ex Link subsp. <i>stricta</i>
<i>Bromus catharticus</i> Vahl	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L.
<i>Bromus diandrus</i> Roth	<i>Papaver hybridum</i> L.
<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i> (L.) I.M.Johnst.	<i>Papaver somniferum</i> L.
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> (L.) Medik.	<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> Poir.
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i> L.	<i>Plantago coronopus</i> L.
<i>Carthamus lanatus</i> L.	<i>Plantago coronopus</i> L. subsp. <i>coronopus</i>
<i>Cenchrus clandestinus</i> (Hochst. ex Chiov.) Morrone	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i> Thuill.	<i>Poa annua</i> L.
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	<i>Poa pratensis</i> L.
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> (Savi) Ten.	<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i> (L.) L.
<i>Cucumis myriocarpus</i> Naudin	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.
<i>Cucumis myriocarpus</i> Naudin subsp. <i>myriocarpus</i>	<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i> (L.) Desf.
<i>Cyclosporum leptophyllum</i> (Pers.) Sprague ex Britton & P.Wilson	<i>Rapistrum rugosum</i> (L.) All.
<i>Datura ferox</i> L.	<i>Rostraria cristata</i> (L.) Tzvelev
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i> (L.) Greuter	<i>Rumex crispus</i> L.
<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i> (L.) P.Beauv.	<i>Sagina apetala</i> Ard.
<i>Echinochloa esculenta</i> (A.Braun) H.Scholz	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i> L.
<i>Echium plantagineum</i> L.	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i> L.
<i>Eleusine indica</i> (L.) Gaertn.	<i>Setaria italica</i> (L.) P.Beauv.
<i>Eragrostis cilianensis</i> (All.) Vignolo ex Janch.	<i>Setaria pumila</i> (Poir.) Roem. & Schult.
<i>Eragrostis minor</i> Host	<i>Setaria verticillata</i> (L.) P.Beauv.
<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i> L.	<i>Sisymbrium irio</i> L.
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i> L.	<i>Sisymbrium orientale</i> L.
<i>Gypsophila tubulosa</i> (Jaub. & Spach) Boiss.	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.
<i>Hordeum glaucum</i> Steud.	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> L.
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i> L.	<i>Sporobolus africanus</i> (Poir.) Robyns & Tournay
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> L.	<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.) Vill.
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> L. f. <i>serriola</i>	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> L.	<i>Urtica urens</i> L.
<i>Lepidium africanum</i> (Burm.f.) DC.	<i>Vulpia myuros</i> (L.) C.C.Gmel.
<i>Lepidium bonariense</i> L.	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i> L.

**Supplemental Table S.3. Scientific name of the native colonising (i.e. those also naturalised in other areas of the state to which they are native). \* indicates that they are introduced or naturalised in other states.**

<b>Scientific name of species that are native colonising at Australian national level</b>	
<i>Acacia acuminata</i> Benth. *	<i>Diplolaena dampieri</i> Desf. *
<i>Acacia amblyophylla</i> F.Muell.	<i>Diplopeltis petiolaris</i> Benth. *
<i>Acacia baileyana</i> F.Muell. *	<i>Echinochloa colona</i> (L.) Link *
<i>Acacia blakelyi</i> Maiden	<i>Epipremnum pinnatum</i> (L.) Engl.
<i>Acacia cardiophylla</i> A.Cunn. ex Benth. *	<i>Eucalyptus conferruminata</i> D.J.Carr & S.G.M.Carr *
	<i>Eucalyptus conferruminata</i> subsp. <i>recherche</i> D.Nicolle & M.E.French
<i>Acacia celastrifolia</i> Benth.	<i>Eucalyptus crenulata</i> Blakely & Beuzev. *
<i>Acacia decurrens</i> Willd. *	<i>Eucalyptus erythrocorys</i> F.Muell.
<i>Acacia dietrichiana</i> F.Muell.	<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i> DC. *
<i>Acacia howittii</i> F.Muell. *	<i>Eucalyptus lane-poolei</i> Maiden
<i>Acacia iteaphylla</i> F.Muell. ex Benth. *	<i>Eucalyptus megacornuta</i> C.A.Gardner *
<i>Acacia lasiocalyx</i> C.R.P.Andrews	<i>Eucalyptus utilis</i> Brooker & Hopper *
<i>Acacia lasiocarpa</i> Benth.	<i>Grevillea banksii</i> R.Br.
<i>Acacia lasiocarpa</i> Benth. var. <i>lasiocarpa</i>	<i>Grevillea curviloba</i> McGill.
<i>Acacia macradenia</i> Benth.	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp. <i>sulphurea</i> (A.Cunn.) Makinson *
	<i>Grevillea leucopteris</i> Meisn.
<i>Acacia mangium</i> Willd. *	<i>Grevillea rosieri</i> McGill.
<i>Acacia microbotrya</i> Benth.	<i>Hakea costata</i> Meisn.
<i>Acacia podalyriifolia</i> A.Cunn. ex G.Don *	<i>Hakea gibbosa</i> (Sm.) Cav.
<i>Acacia pulchella</i> R.Br. *	<i>Hakea laurina</i> R.Br. *
<i>Acacia pulchella</i> R.Br. var. <i>pulchella</i> *	<i>Hakea multilineata</i> Meisn.
<i>Acacia retinodes</i> Schltld. *	<i>Hakea pycnoneura</i> Meisn.
<i>Acacia spectabilis</i> A.Cunn. ex Benth.	<i>Hakea recurva</i> Meisn.
<i>Acacia trigonophylla</i> Meisn.	<i>Hakea recurva</i> Meisn. subsp. <i>recurva</i>
<i>Acacia vestita</i> Ker Gawl. *	<i>Hibbertia cuneiformis</i> (Labill.) Sm.
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i> (Willd.) Sweet *	<i>Hibiscus tridactylites</i> Lindl. *
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i> (Willd.) Sweet var. <i>flexuosa</i> *	<i>Kennedia nigricans</i> Lindl. *
<i>Aleurites moluccanus</i> (L.) Willd. *	<i>Kunzea baxteri</i> (Klotzsch) Schauer *
<i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> (Miq.) L.A.S.Johnson	<i>Labichea lanceolata</i> Benth.
<i>Banksia undata</i> A.R.Mast & K.R.Thiele	<i>Labichea lanceolata</i> Benth. subsp. <i>lanceolata</i>
<i>Banksia undata</i> A.R.Mast & K.R.Thiele var. <i>undata</i> *	<i>Lagunaria patersonia</i> (Andrews) G.Don *
<i>Bidens subalternans</i> DC. *	<i>Lechenaultia biloba</i> Lindl.
<i>Buckinghamia celsissima</i> F.Muell.	<i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i> (L.) Garcke *
<i>Callistemon phoeniceus</i> Lindl.	<i>Melaleuca diosmifolia</i> Andrews *
<i>Callitris canescens</i> (Parl.) S.T.Blake	<i>Melaleuca megacephala</i> F.Muell.
<i>Callitris preissii</i> Miq.	<i>Melaleuca nesophila</i> F.Muell. *
<i>Callitris pyramidalis</i> (Miq.) J.E.Piggin & J.J.Bruhl	<i>Melaleuca pentagona</i> Labill.
<i>Callitris roei</i> (Endl.) F.Muell.	<i>Melaleuca pentagona</i> Labill. var. <i>pentagona</i>
<i>Calothamnus chrysanthereus</i> F.Muell.	<i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i> (Willd.) I.C.Nielsen *
<i>Calothamnus graniticus</i> Hawkeswood	<i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i> (Willd.) I.C.Nielsen subsp. <i>lophantha</i> *
<i>Calothamnus graniticus</i> Hawkeswood subsp. <i>graniticus</i>	
	<i>Piper umbellatum</i> L.
<i>Calothamnus quadrifidus</i> R.Br.	<i>Pittosporum bicolor</i> Hook. x <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> Vent.
<i>Calothamnus quadrifidus</i> subsp. <i>homalophyllus</i> (F.Muell.) A.S.George & N.Gibson	
	<i>Reedia spathacea</i> F.Muell.
<i>Calothamnus quadrifidus</i> R.Br. subsp. <i>quadrifidus</i>	<i>Solanum hoplopetalum</i> Bitter & Summerh. *
<i>Calothamnus quadrifidus</i> subsp. <i>teretifolius</i> A.S.George & N.Gibson	<i>Solanum hystrix</i> R.Br. *
<i>Calothamnus rupestris</i> Schauer	
<i>Calothamnus validus</i> S.Moore	

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*Chamelaucium uncinatum* Schauer \*  
*Chionanthus ramiflorus* Roxb.  
*Conospermum huegelii* R.Br. ex Endl.  
*Corymbia torelliana* (F.Muell.) K.D.Hill & L.A.S.Johnson  
*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers. \*  
*Dasymalla teckiana* (F.Muell.) B.J.Conn & Henwood  
*Diplazium dietrichianum* (Luer.) C.Chr.

*Syzygium paniculatum* Gaertn.  
*Terminalia arenicola* Byrnes  
*Thryptomene calycina* (Lindl.) Stapf  
*Verbena officinalis* L. \*  
*Verticordia monadelpha* Turcz.  
*Verticordia monadelpha* Turcz. var. *monadelpha*

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