

W FOULDS

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Polymorphism of Cyanogenesis in Lotus australis. Andr.

Cyanogenesis has been reported to be polymorphic in many species of Lotus including L. corniculatus, L. tenuis and L. alpinus. However, I know of no report suggesting that the character is polymorphic in L. australis.

In a survey of the dune system at Greenough, 7 km south of Geraldton, Western Australia, 118 specimens of L. australis were tested for HCN using the sodium picrate test.

The tests were made in August 1978 on young plants not yet in flower. This preliminary sample was collected from one small area.

TABLE 1

Phenotypes	Number	approx. %
++	27	23
+-	22	19
-+	25	21
--	44	37

- ++ Cyanogenic glucosides and enzyme;
- +- glucosides, but no enzyme;
- + no glucosides but enzyme;
- no glucosides or enzyme

Despite the fact that the ^{Mediterranean} snail (^{Mueller} Theba pisana) is abundant in the area the almost equal proportion of phenotypes could suggest that selective predation by the snail against the acyanogenic phenotypes is not operative.