



Media Release



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ACT mountains reveal their plant secrets

A new tool released today by the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research takes the guesswork out of identifying the trees and shrubs on three of the ACT's favourite mountains.

'Key to the trees and shrubs of Black Mountain, Mt Ainslie and Mt Majura' is a web-based identification key compiled by an Honorary Fellow at CSIRO Plant Industry, Laurie Adams.

Botany enthusiasts, school groups and environmental organisations will all find the key an invaluable resource for learning about the Territory's mountain flora. The three mountains are also popular with bushwalkers and the key can bring a new dimension to the bush experience.

"The key builds on an earlier version and describes all the trees and shrubs known to occur on the three mountains," Mr Adams says.

"We've also indicated in the key what time of year plants are likely to be in flower, which helps to correctly identify a species," he says. "And now that we're going into spring, many plants will be coming into flower."

Featuring a glossary of terms and checklists of plants sorted by both family and genus, the key is easy to use.

To further aid identification, photos of the native plants in the key – many donated by local environment group Friends of the Aranda Bushland – are incorporated in the web-based update.

Though written exclusively around the flora of the Black Mountain, Mt Ainslie and Mt Majura areas, the key is also relevant to most of the indigenous woody flora of the Canberra's Native Park system.

The key is available on the Centre for Plant Biodiversity website at: www.cpbr.gov.au/black-mtn-key, together with a PDF version without photos which can be printed and taken into the field.

The Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research (CPBR) is a joint venture between CSIRO Plant Industry and the Department of the Environment and Heritage.

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