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Mackenzie Taylor from the University of Tennessee has spent the past six weeks in Manjimup studying a rare water lily found in the area.

Visitor studies rare SW water lily

UNIVERSITY of Tennessee PhD student Mackenzie Taylor has completed six weeks in Manjimup at the Department of Environment and Conservation studying water lilies found in the area.

Ms Taylor describes the area as one of the hotspots for *Trithuria*, a genus of tiny water plants. Up until 2007, it was thought a rare water lily found in Manjimup was grass.

“If you weren’t looking for it you

would never see it,” she said. “No one paid attention to them for years and years.

“It took the botanical world by storm when it was discovered they were water lilies.”

Ms Taylor said she had been out in the field investigating how fast plants grow and how they grow.

“The results of this study will provide critical ecological infor-

mation about *Trithuria*, a poorly known and understood genus that occupies an important position,” she said.

Ms Taylor said she had a passion for water lilies because they diverged early from other flowering plants.

“Flowers are a mystery,” she said. “We still don’t know much about them.”