

Australian Plants

Registered for posting
as a periodical—Category B

December, 1978
Vol. 10, No. 77

75c



EDITORIAL:

The Bottle-Brush Project — So We Failed

With a lot of words and high hopes we launched our *Callistemon* Study Group in the first issue of Volume 9, No. 69. What a disappointment this must have been for some readers, as our organisation could not meet the demand. We are certainly disappointed with our efforts.

However, we can now promote the project with assurance. Doris Phelps, Loxton North, South Australia, 5333, has taken over leadership of the group in a very competent manner. Some of the aboreta for the cultivation of all species are on the way. A good range of seed is available for those who wish to grow plants, and we have two very competent botanists working on a four-year plan to resolve the confusion over the correct names, as mentioned in this issue. Many plants were given out in N.S.W. Will those who received them please advise Doris Phelps of their success, or otherwise? As the seed germinates easily, will members in all States grow on as many plants as possible, take them into Society meetings and give them to those who will grow them on and report results.

There will be a need for specimens from mature plants of all species, and all horticultural cultivars. Please propagate and plant as many as you can. They grow so easily from seed and are ideal free-flowering garden plants. This is one project even the most inexperienced beginner can join in.

WHERE ELSE HAVE WE FAILED?

The theme of Volume 9 was "the growing of wildflowers is easy in good garden conditions if you select suitable species". Throughout the volume suitable species for horticulture were illustrated and described. Hopefully readers will have tried to cultivate many of these plants, and undoubtedly with varying success.

Again we will commence the volume with reliable, magnificently flowering shrubs that you can plant, confident of producing spectacular results in your garden. Even here, with the genus *Eremaea*, we have some problem plants, as mentioned on page 17. Readers, please obtain plants or seed, and try cultivation under good garden conditions and report results.

The theme of this volume will be "but where have we failed?"

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COVER *Callistemon speciosus* by Brian Crafter

A beautiful bottle-brush flowering plant from Western Australia but widely grown throughout Australia as described on page 10. Species of *Callistemon* are more abundant in the eastern states of Australia where equally magnificent specimens may be found. Western Australia's only other species *Callistemon phoeniceus* is illustrated on page 5. Western Australian species have been given prominence on this occasion because of the magnificent photograph of Brian Crafter.

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS—No. 77. Issue of Volume 10, comprising issues 77-84. International Series Index ISSN 0005-0008. A National publication in 16600 copies. Published by The Society for Growing Australian Plants. For details see last page. Available to members or by subscription of \$3.00, including postage to your address. Send to the Editor, 860 Henry Lawson Drive, Picnic Point, N.S.W., 2213. Publication date of previous issue, No. 76, was 15th November, 1978.

Growing Callistemon

by C. A. CORNFORD, North Rockhampton, Queensland

Callistemon, more widely known as Bottlebrush, are easily grown over a wide range of conditions. They have proved hardy and reliable in Queensland and flower profusely.

Rockhampton is just north of the Tropic of Capricorn and 10 km from the coast. Average annual rainfall is around 900 mm, with the majority of our rainfall being received in the November to March period. During this period we can get some very hot and humid weather. It is usually during these hot, humid periods that we experience loss of some plants which come from the southern part of Australia, particularly *Grevillea*.

Winter is usually mild and dry, with frosts being a rare occurrence in the city area. Frosts are experienced in the districts to the west and south. Temperatures in the city range from around 5°C in the winter to around 37°C in the summer.

Soils in the city area vary considerably. Hard, stony ridges occur in the higher parts of the city, while heavy clay soils are widespread in the lower areas. The heavy clay soils can become very waterlogged during the wet summer period. There are occasional areas of red clay loam, soils and brown sandy loam soils. It has been our experience that *Callistemon* are very tolerant of soil types and weather conditions. I do not know of any members who have had much difficulty in growing *Callistemon*, but there are a few southern varieties which don't flower well here.

There are a few *Callistemon* which grow naturally in the area. The most common are *Callistemon viminalis* and *Callistemon polandii* (red and pink forms).

Callistemon are not plagued by too many pests and diseases in this area. The leaf roller caterpillar is a pest in plants when it rolls the new growth around itself and eats out the growing point. It attacks plants of all ages, mainly during summer. Its effect is not so noticeable as the plant gets larger. On young plants it can be controlled fairly easily with Carbaryl or Diazinon.

We also have trouble with a wood borer which attacks the smaller upper branches. Unfortunately, as it lives inside the branch, its presence is not noticed until the branch dies. The only thing that can be done then is to cut the branch back to below where the borer is and destroy it. As a matter of interest this borer also attacks some of the *Melaleuca* species.

Pink wax scale is a minor pest on some varieties. It seems to be mainly a problem of young plants, but does attack *Callistemon citrinus* 'Alba' fairly consistently. It can be fairly readily controlled with white oil.

There doesn't appear to be any problem with soil nutrient deficiencies, although an iron deficiency will show up in occasional plants following a prolonged wet period. This is fairly easily corrected by watering with a solution of iron chelates.

My garden is located on one of the stony ridges about 200 feet above sea level. I have the following *Callistemon* varieties growing quite successfully:



ABOVE: *Callistemon citrinus*

Photography by H. A. Morrison

Until recently this was the most widely grown species of bottle-brush, being widely known as Red Bottle-brush. The shrub rarely grew above 2 metres in height and specimens reliably covered themselves with large red flowering spikes. They were easily grown from seed, could be propagated in the hundreds, and seemed to persevere with all forms of neglect. Following reasonable rain, they would burst into bloom.

Alas, this did not happen always. Some specimens were better than others. The colour of the flowers was variable and they fell into disrepute. Reliable nurserymen propagated from the best plants and marketed their progeny under various names, see *Callistemon* 'Reeves Pink' on page 24. To restore some order and to encourage the marketing of the best forms, The Australian Cultivar Registration Authority is commencing to officially register the forms submitted as horticultural cultivars, the first announcement being on page 23.

OPPOSITE: *Callistemon phoeniceus*

Photography by Brian Crafter

Western Australia only has two species of *Callistemon*, one shown opposite and the other on the front cover. Magnificently flowering plants to two metres high this will grow to perfection in your garden.



Callistemon viminalis: This could be classed as a large shrub or small tree. It carries a profusion of large red brushes in spring, with occasional flowers during the rest of the year. It has a weeping habit and grows to 5-6 m. It is very easy to grow and is by far the most commonly grown in this area. There are a number of forms of this having variations in leaf size and flower colour, although colour is always a variation of red. One variety I know has a deep plum-coloured flower.

*Callistemon 'Candy Pink'**. The deep pink brushes of this shrub are produced in profusion three or four times per year. Brushes are about 150 mm in length. The plant grows to about 3 m. In general appearance and in flower form this one is very similar to *Callistemon 'Guyra Hybrid'*, but seems to be slightly more upright in growth. It is easily grown.

Callistemon 'Guyra Hybrid': This one grows to about 2-5 m and spreads about 3 m. Deep pink brushes are produced three or four times per year. It is easily grown. Tip pruning when young seems to be helpful in forming a better-shaped plant.

Callistemon 'Harkness' (also wrongly known as *Callistemon 'Gawler Hybrid'*): This is fairly slow growing here, but is magnificent when in flower in spring. It will produce an occasional flower during the rest of the year. It is easy to grow and quite hardy.

Callistemon 'Injune' (Pink Form): There is also a red form of this. The one I have produces pale pink brushes with yellow stamens. It flowers for a long period. The pink fades to white as the flower ages. It is quite attractive, as it carries pink and white brushes simultaneously. Grows to about 3 m and is easy to grow.

Callistemon salignus 'Rubra': As the name suggests, this is generally regarded as red. However, my plant has pale to medium pink flowers to about 50 mm in length. Yellow stamens stand out from the main part of the brush. It is a shrub with open habit. My plant took four years to flower, but now flowers fairly continuously. It grows to about 3 m, with a spread of about 3 m.

Callistemon 'Captain Cook': This small shrub, to 1.5 metres in height, is fairly straggly when not in flower, but is magnificent when it flowers in spring. The deep red brushes, about 100 mm long, are massed over the whole of the plant. It is a dwarf form of *Callistemon viminalis*, sometimes listed as *Callistemon compactus*.

Callistemon pinifolius: I have the prostrate form of this. It has an open habit and will spread over an area of 2-3 m, with a height of about 0.5 m. The apple-green flower, about 100 mm in length, is tight and very attractive. The upright form is fairly sparse and grows to about 2 m, with similar flower colour.

Callistemon formosus: The bright lemon coloured flowers of this make it a worthwhile addition to any garden. My plant has been flowering from an early age and flowers fairly continuously. Although flowering habit tends to be a bit variable between plants. When fully grown it will reach about 3-4 m and has a fairly upright habit.

Callistemon citrinus 'Endeavour': An outstanding shrub when it flowers in early summer. The large, brilliant red brushes completely cover the plant. Unfortunately, it is in flower for only a few weeks of the year, although it does produce a few flowers for a short while after the main flowering period. The foliage is very dense and a glossy green. It would be suitable for a low, dense hedge. Height when fully grown is about 2 m. It is easy to grow.

Callistemon 'Tinaroo': A small-leaved plant from North Queensland. It is generally an open spreading shrub, growing to about 2.5 m. The small, tight red brushes with yellow stamens are about 50-75 mm in length. It grows readily in all soil types in Rockhampton.

*These are horticultural cultivar names—see page 23

Callistemon species: This unnamed variety comes from, so far as I know, the Injune area of Queensland. It has a heavily weeping habit and is a very attractive shrub with its greyish foliage carried on reddish branches. The colour of the brush is deep red and is about 100 mm in length. To date, my plant has not set any seed. It is two years old, about 1.5 metres high and has a spread of about 2 m. I don't know what height it will reach, but from present appearances the spread is likely to exceed the height. A few cuttings of this have been tried, but without success so far.

Callistemon species: This unnamed form comes from the Blackdown Tableland in Central Queensland. It grows to about 1 m in height and has small prickly leaves. It likes plenty of water. The brush is bright red, very tight and about 50 mm in length. Its natural habitat is sandstone country, but it grows well in all the soil types in Rockhampton.

Callistemon species: A form, so far as I know, of *Callistemon viminalis* from Blackdown Tableland. It grows to about 3 m, with an upright habit. The bright red open brushes appear in early summer and are about 75 mm in length. It adapts well from its natural sandstone habitat.

Callistemon species: I think this is a form of *Callistemon viminalis* from the Mackay area of Central Queensland. Growth habit and flower form are very similar to *C. viminalis*, but it tends to be more upright. Fully grown it will reach about 4 m.

Callistemon pachyphyllus: I have two forms of this variety (red and green). These are native to the coastal areas in the Bundaberg district of Queensland and south from there along the coast. The flower size is similar in both types, about 100 mm in length. The red form is a deep red colour. The green form could best be described as apple-green. Both types are very straggly shrubs to about 1.5 m. They are not suitable for specimen plants, but are ideal in shrubberies. They adapt well to this area. There is also another form with creamy coloured flowers.

Callistemon sieberi: This is the alpine *Callistemon*. It is growing slowly, but is healthy. It is three years old, but has not yet flowered. It is possible that it may not flower in this area.

Callistemon citrinus 'Alba': This is a semi-prostrate form growing to a height of about 1 m and with similar spread. It is a very attractive shrub with its pale green leaves and pure white flower. It flowers once per year in spring. My plant is growing quite well in fairly heavy shade.

Callistemon 'Berundah Station': A sparse shrub carrying pale pink brushes to about 75 mm in length. It flowers off and on throughout the year. Flower colour fades very quickly to white, but it is a worthwhile addition to a shrubbery. It grows fairly slowly and will reach about 2.5 m in height, with a spread of about 2 m.

Callistemon comboynensis: This is a semi-prostrate red-flowered shrub having a very open form. My plant has not yet flowered, but other plants in Rockhampton have, on occasion, flowered fairly well. A well-grown plant can spread over 2-3 m to a height of about 0.3 m.

Callistemon pallidus: A slow-growing shrub which hasn't shown any sign of flowering to date. It is developing into a multi-stemmed shrub and should be quite attractive when it grows a bit bigger. It is supposed to have a bright yellow flower.

Callistemon 'Rose Opal': This dwarf form of *Callistemon viminalis* flowers heavily during spring. Flower colour can be best described as deep red. Flowers are borne in clusters at the end of the branches. It grows to about 1.5 m, with quite dense foliage. In my experience this would be a better plant to grow than *Callistemon* 'Captain Cook' whenever a small plant is required, as it is a more attractive plant when not in flower.

Callistemon 'Eureka': This one grows rapidly here. My plant has flowered heavily over the whole bush. The flower colour is cerise-pink, the brushes being 100-150 mm in length and 50 mm in diameter. It has grown to about 2 m in just under 12 months. All the other plants that I know of around the area have grown just as well.



ABOVE: *Callistemon* 'Mauve Mist'

Photography by Merv. Hodge

This horticultural cultivar is described on page 23 and has been registered because of its pleasing colour. The plant probably evolves from *Callistemon citrinus* as illustrated on page 4 — refer to caption below that colour plate.

All that the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority can do is to register as horticultural cultivars plants submitted to it if they fall within simple rules. Eventually, selection, and market demand will indicate which are the best for each situation. The work of the *Callistemon* Study Group as announced in this issue and reports by growers such as C. A. Cornford will eventually sort out the confusion surrounding the correct naming of *Callistemon* plants and their cultivation.

OPPOSITE: *Callistemon linearis*

Photography by H. A. Morrison

Only one of many beautiful bottle-brush plants that may be found in the wild in Eastern States of Australia. This plant is described on page 10.

Why Not A White Bottle-brush?

Thoughtful gardeners will know that the best way to set off various colours in a garden setting is to carefully place some clear white flowering plants. What we need is a really good clear dense flowering white bottle-brush. Who knows of one or will develop one for us? See page 27 for reference to a good green form.



Other *Callistemons*

that are known to grow in Rockhampton

Callistemon polandii: Red and pink forms of this grow naturally in this area. Both are large, fairly dense shrubs to about 4 m in height. The red form flowers more profusely than the pink form. The red form flowers for most of the year. The pink form flowers heavily in early summer and carries a few flowers during the rest of the year.

Callistemon phoeniceus: One of the S.G.A.P. members has this growing in his garden, and although it has grown well into a shrub about 2 m high it flowers very poorly, producing only one or two flowers per year. The blue-grey foliage makes it rather attractive, even though it doesn't flower well.

Callistemon chisholmii: To date none of the plants I know in the area have flowered. It grows quite well, but as the plants I know are still young it is not fair to criticise it at this stage. It is supposed to be a deep pink in colour.

Callistemon polandii x *C. 'Tinaroo'*: So far as I know this is a natural hybrid. It is spectacular when in flower, being covered with a mass of bright red flowers with yellow stamens. It retains the smallish leaves of *Callistemon 'Tinaroo'*, but the flower tends to be of the form of *Callistemon polandii*. It is an upright plant growing to about 4 m.

Callistemon citrinus: Three forms of this are known to grow and flower in Rockhampton—a red form, a white form and one known as *Callistemon citrinus* 'Clusters' (also red). They are generally fairly upright shrubs to about 4 m. Brushes are about 75-100 mm in length. *Callistemon citrinus* 'Clusters', as the name implies, produces large clusters of flowers at the ends of the branches.

Callistemon subulatus: This plant is still young and has not yet flowered, so I cannot really give any comment on what its future performance may be.

Callistemon phoeniceus: The only plant I know of this variety is not in a very favourable position, as it is in heavy shade. It has reached a height of about 1.2 m in four years, but has, as yet, shown no sign of flowering.

Callistemon species: This is a named variety, but unfortunately the name has been lost somewhere along the way. It is about 1.5 m high and flowered last year for the first time after four years. The brushes, which are about 75 mm in length, are a deep mauve colour. It is quite spectacular when in flower in spring.

Callistemon 'Pindi Pindi': This one is similar in form to *Callistemon viminalis*, but slightly more upright. It grows and flowers well.

Callistemon 'Ewan River': A *Callistemon* from North Queensland which is growing quite well. It is only a young plant at this stage and has not flowered.

Callistemon linearis: There are two forms of this, both red. They are fairly open shrubs, which tend to be a bit straggly. Brushes are fairly large, to about 100 mm in length. A feature of this variety is the very large seed capsules which form and which are held on the plant for long periods.

Callistemon shiressii: A young plant which has not yet flowered, but which is growing quite well so far. □

THE PLANT FAMILY MYRTACEAE

by THE EDITOR

Callistemon belong to the plant family Myrtaceae. There are many other plants in this family that are ideal for horticulture. This issue will now describe species of *Eremaea*, *Calythropsis* and *Fenzlia*. Readers should refer to the first two issues of Volume No. 9, Nos. 69 and 70. These are presented in a style to encourage beginners. How these many genera of plants that form the family and their affinities are described. The guide to their cultivation, also given, will be of special value to readers of this issue.

EREMAEA — The Genus

by R. J. Hubbard

Eremaea is a W. Australian-confined genus of the family *Myrtaceae*, tribe *Leptosperminae*, sub-tribe *Calothamninae*. It contains eight recognised species, all occurring in the southern half of the State, mainly in the South-western province, with the greatest incidence in the Darling and Irwin districts. There appear to be several undescribed plants that may eventually be found to be distinct species.

The genus was named and first described by the botanist John Lindley in "A Sketch of the Vegetation of the Swan River Colony" which was published as an appendix to Edward's *Botanical Register* Vol. 23 in 1839. *Eremaea* is derived from the Greek word *eremos*, meaning 'desert' or 'wasteland'. It is a rather inappropriate name, for while the genus occurs mostly in sandy soils, only one or two species extend to the drier desert or semi-desertic areas. Most species occur in sand heath, sometimes in fairly moist conditions (e.g. *E. fimbriata*). A later synonym is *Eremaeopsis* (Kuntze, 1903). No common name has been devised for the genus.

Eremaea is a particularly attractive genus with quite distinctive flowerheads. It is closely related to *Phymatocarpus*, *Calothamnus*, *Regelia* and *Beaufortia*, but its flowerheads make it easily distinguishable from all these genera. The foliage is often superficially similar in appearance to that of *Beaufortia*, *Regelia* and some *Kunzea* species, but it differs from the first two genera in that it is alternate. Further differences are to be found in the structure of the anthers and in the disposition of the ovules.

All species are slender-branched and most become quite bushy in cultivation. They are low to medium in height and are very suitable for general positions in the garden, including rockeries. Many have excellent potential as landscaping plants. They are very effective for massed plantings. Most would be very suitable for cultivation in containers.

GENERIC CHARACTERISTICS (after Bentham):

Leaves: Alternate, flat and short or narrow and lanceolate, often crowded on short shoots. *Flowers*: Solitary or few, $\pm$ surrounded by scale-like bracts. *Calyx tube*: campanulate, fused to ovary at base, free part dilated or erect; lobes 5, triangular or acuminate. *Petals*: 5, obovate or orbicular, usually scarious. *Stamens*: Indefinite, longer than the petals, $\pm$ united in bundles opposite the petals, sometimes almost free; filaments or free parts filiform. Anthers obovoid, erect on short connective, continuous with filaments; cells back-to-back, opening outwards in longitudinal slits. *Style*: Filiform; stigma small. *Ovary*: 3-celled, inferior, summit villous, with a short depression around the style; ovules several in each cell, erect on small lateral placenta. *Fruiting capsule*: Enclosed in hardened and enlarged calyx tube. *Seed*: 1 or 2 in each cell, obovate or cuneate, angular, winged; testa thin.

EREMAEA SPECIES

The following notes are intended to be a simplified digest of growth habits, flowering and distribution. Full botanic descriptions are contained in the works cited in the Bibliography. Asterisked common names are ones suggested by the author of this article.





Eremaea fimbriata (above)

Eremaea ebracteata (opposite)

Photography by O. Hockings

The orange-flowered species of *Eremaea*:

Orange-flowered species of *Eremaea* are somewhat similar but differ by:

Eremaea acutifolia is best distinguished by the sharp pointed leaves and wooly bracts.

E. beaufortioides generally has 2-4 clustered flowers.

E. fimbriata has broad leaves and comparatively large flowers to 2 cm across.

E. pauciflora has slender leaves, small flowers to 1 cm and small globular fruits.

E. ebracteata is distinguished by the absence of bracts. and while the flowers are in heads of 2-3, they are smaller than in *E. beaufortioides* and are much more orange-red than any colour forms of that species. As well, the leaves in *E. ebracteata* are linear, not ovate.

***Eremaea acutifolia* F. Muell. (1860)**

'Rusty *Eremaea*'

A low, bushy, much-branched shrub, 45-60 cm, spreading 0.9-1.8 metres or more; the branches stout, rigid, $\pm$ hirsute, with numerous short leafy branchlets. *Leaves*: Crowded, spreading, linear, rigid, pungent, light green, 4-10 mm long, ciliate or hirsute with long spreading hairs or becoming glabrous with age. *Flowers*: Up to 1.2 cm long, orange, borne terminal on short branchlets, singly and sessile within the last few leaves, surrounded by numerous overlapping woolly bracts, from early to mid- or late-spring. Flowers plentiful. Sand heath, in Irwin and Darling Districts. Very attractive. Grows best in open position.

***Eremaea beaufortioides* Benth. (1867)**

'Round-leaved *Eremaea*'

A dense, erect, much-branched, bushy shrub in cultivation, often straggling in the wild, 0.9-1.2 metres or sometimes to 1.8-2.4 metres, spreading 0.6-1.2 metres or sometimes wider, with numerous short slender branchlets; the young shoots $\pm$ hirsute, becoming glabrous with age. *Leaves*: Crowded, stem-clasping, recurved or spreading, broadly ovate, rigid, acute, 3- or 5-nerved, light to dark green, $\pm$ 4-6 mm long. *Flowers*: Comparatively large, about 2 cm long, orange to orange-yellow or pinkish-red with prominent gold anthers; borne terminally, usually 2-4 together at the ends of the branchlets or sometimes with 8-9 flowers forming a rounded head about 4 cm diam., during early and mid-spring in the wild, often through to early summer in cultivation. Profuse flowering. The buds are covered across the top by a prominent shining white sticky coating which disappears with the opening of the flowers. Sand heath, usually on damp well-drained slopes, in Irwin District. A very beautiful species. An excellent landscaping plant.

***Eremaea ebracteata* F. Muell. (1860)**

'Inland *Eremaea*'*

A low, much-branched, spreading shrub, 30-60 cm, seldom taller, spreading 1.8-2.4 metres or more, with numerous short, slender branchlets; densely foliated; the branches and young leaves $\pm$ hirsute. *Leaves*: Crowded, heath-like, linear, obtuse or scarcely acute, $\pm$ 6-8 mm long, becoming glabrous. *Flowers*: Rather large, showy, $\pm$ 1.5 x 1.5 cm, orange-red, borne in sessile clusters of 2-3, at first terminal, becoming lateral with outgrowth of shoot, from mid-spring to late summer. Profuse flowering. Sand heath in Irwin District. A particularly attractive shrub. An excellent border or rockery plant.

***Eremaea fimbriata* Lindl. (1839)**

'Fringed *Eremaea*'*

A rigid, compact, much-branched, erect shrub, 0.6-1.2 metres, spreading 60-90 cm or more in the southern part of its distribution, usually quite slender in drier areas; $\pm$ hirsute with soft spreading hairs, especially on the younger branchlets, the leaf margins and the calyces. *Leaves*: Quite variable, erect or spreading or recurved, closely packed towards ends of branchlets, broadly elliptical to broadly oblong-lanceolate, flat or concave, obtuse or almost acute, recurved at tip, rigid, 3-5-7-nerved, green to grey-green, $\pm$ 6-12 mm long, at first hairy underneath, becoming glabrous. *Flowers*: $\pm$ 2 cm diam., orange to bright orange-red with prominent yellow anthers, sessile, terminal on numerous short branchlets, borne singly within last few leaves and surrounded by a considerable number of overlapping bracts, from late winter to mid-spring. Profuse flowering. Sand heath and woodlands, often on fringes of swamps, in Darling and Irwin Districts. A very attractive shrub. An excellent border or rockery plant.

***Eremaea fimbriata* var *brevifolia* Benth. (1867)**

'Short-leaved *Eremaea*'*

More erect and more slender than the typical form, 0.6-1.2 metres in height. *Leaves*: Short, very broad, concave, squarrose, grey-green, 7-nerved. *Flowers*: Deep orange, 1.5 cm diam. Various localities in Irwin District, sometimes in association with typical form. A very attractive shrub.

Eremaea pauciflora (Endl.) Druce (1917)

'Common Eremaea'

A bushy, much-branched, erect or spreading, heath-like shrub, 0.6-1.2 metres, spreading 0.6-1.5 metres, $\pm$ pubescent or hirsute, the branches very slender, with numerous short leafy branchlets. *Leaves*: Decussate and crowded on branchlets, narrow, linear, flat, subterete or triquetrous, obtuse to $\pm$ acute, glabrous or hairy, greyish-green to dull green, 4-6 mm long or rarely to 8-9 mm. *Flowers*: Similar in form to those of *E. fimbriata* but much smaller, usually $\pm$ 8 mm diam., sometimes to 1 cm, bright orange, borne terminally on the short branchlets, singly and sessile within the last few leaves, surrounded by overlapping scale-like bracts, during early and mid-spring in the wild, sometimes through to early summer in cultivation. Sand heath, scrub heath and woodland, sometimes in gravelly soils, sometimes on swamp fringes in the Irwin, Darling Avon, Stirling, Eyre and Coolgardie Districts. A neat attractive shrub, quite rounded in habit both in the wild and in cultivation. Few-flowered. Its fruits are quite distinctive for the genus, both in their globular shape and in their smallness ($\pm$ 5 x 6 mm). A good border or rockery shrub. *Synonyms*: *Metrosideros pauciflora* Endl. (1837); *E. pilosa* Lindl. and *E. ericifolia* Lindl. (1839).

Eremaea purpurea C. A. Gardn. (1964)

'Purple Eremaea'

An erect, much-branched, compact, bushy shrub, 30-60 cm; the branches thick, erect and densely foliaged, with numerous short slender branchlets. Not unlike *E. ebracteata* in general appearance, but differing in its flowers and the smaller, broader, glabrous leaves. *Leaves*: Closely packed, narrow, oblong-linear, concave, glabrous, grey-green, glandular-punctate, 3-6 mm long. *Flowers*: Up to 1 cm diam. but often smaller, purple, sessile, borne terminally on short branchlets, singly within the last few leaves, during early summer and probably longer. The yellow anthers are quite prominent. Sandy soils, often with *Banksia* scrub, in the Darling District. A very beautiful shrub.

Eremaea rosea C. A. Gardn. & A. S. George (1963)

'Pink Eremaea'

A spreading, several-stemmed shrub, 30-60 cm; the branches hairy when young, becoming pubescent, then glabrous with age; the branchlets short and slender. *Leaves*: Scattered, shortly petiolate, erect to spreading, linear-lanceolate, concave, keeled, obtuse, 1-3-nerved, 6-9 mm long, glabrous except on the margins which are at first setaceous. *Flowers*: $\pm$ 1.3 x 1 cm, deep pink, sessile, terminal on short branchlets, borne singly or rarely in pairs within the one series of bracts, within the last few leaves, during early spring and probably longer. Sand heath in the Darling and Irwin Districts. A beautiful species.

Eremaea violacea F. Muell.

'Violet Eremaea'

A shrub of variable form, commonly a quite diffuse shrub seldom exceeding 50 cm in the wild with a tendency for some branches to be semi-prostrate and some lower ones completely prostrate; or an erect, much-branched, fairly open shrub, 60-90 cm in the wild, usually up to 1.5 metres in cultivation, though sometimes attaining 1.8-2 metres; the usual spread 0.6-1.2 metres. It is typically hairy, though a glabrous form is found closer to the coast. *Leaves*: Quite crowded, erect, narrow, linear-elliptical, subterete, slightly reflexed at tips, usually hairy, sharply acute, sometimes quite soft, grey-green or sometimes somewhat bluish-green, 12-16 mm long. *Flowers*: Largest in genus, $\pm$ 2-2.5 cm diam., pinkish to deep violet or blue-violet with prominent gold anthers; borne usually 2-3 together in sessile ovoid to globular clusters 3-4 cm diam., terminal on short leafy branchlets, from late winter to mid-summer, mainly from mid-spring onwards, with the clusters frequently forming quite large masses across the top of the shrub.



Photography by G. Chapman

Eremaea violacea

As above *Eremaea violacea* is the most beautiful of the genus and one of W.A.'s most attractive native shrubs. Like *E. beaufortoides*, the buds are initially covered across the top by a white viscid coating. A good shrub for massed planting. The horticultural name *E. violacea* var. *major* is sometimes applied to the more erect form. The name appears to have originated with the late C. A. Gardner, but has no validity. It alludes to the larger and more brightly coloured flower clusters in this form. It is found on the sand heath in the Darling and Irwin Districts.

CULTIVATION

All species are very worthy of cultivation and they respond very well to garden conditions. It is remarkable that their extremely showy flowers have not yet attracted the attention of commercial propagators.

They are easily cultivated in conditions similar to those for *Beaufortia* species, all favouring a sunny position in sandy soils, but quite responsive to lightly shaded positions. All appreciate peatmoss in the surrounding soil and they respond very well to fertilizing, but the temptation to over-fertilize must be resisted, or flowering will give way to over-lush foliage growth as in the case of *Beaufortia*. Slow release pellets in the surrounding soil in spring and autumn are probably the best source of feeding. Pruning is not required for any species, but it may be carried out without harm.

PROPAGATION

Seed is readily germinated with no special pre-treatment, though young seedlings of most species require care. The seed is medium sized to quite large and is easily released from mature fruit after a few days in a warm position. If left on the plant, the fruits generally shed their seed within 1-2

years though it may be carried indefinitely, dependant on climatic conditions. Seed is best sown during autumn or spring. It should be handled as for *Melaleuca*.

All species may be struck from cuttings 5-8 cm long, though it is advisable in most instances to prepare quite a few cuttings as the result is generally far from 100 percent. *E. violacea* is the most difficult species to strike. *E. beaufortoides* produces good results and most pieces make roots quite quickly, but with most other species, seed, if available, is the quicker and more reliable method. Struck cuttings of all species generally branch out quite low down, but if needed, early pinching back will assist.

Grafting is a further means of propagation which has been carried out successfully and this may well be a worthwhile means of producing *E. violacea*.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The above notes have been condensed from a work soon to be submitted for publication, covering the whole of the family *Myrtaceae* in Western Australia. My warmest thanks to Mr. R. Royce for allowing me full access to the collections at the Perth Herbarium and to Messrs. P. Wilson and R. Altken for considerable help with identifications. □

THE CULTIVATION OF *EREMAEA*

by THE EDITOR

All is not as simple as described above. Some species of *Eremaea* have proved rather difficult to establish in gardens in Eastern Australian temperate areas. There have also been reports of success, and in fact some species have been quite hardy. How does one reconcile this conflict?

We do have a lot to learn about the cultivation of Australian flowers evolved over ages to withstand or survive in spite of the conditions in the wild. I would recommend the "good garden conditions" concept described in Issue 69. An article in our next issue about the root systems of members of the *Myrtaceae* could be of special interest.

500 Australian Native Plants

A new 32 page booklet with the above title has been published by the Maroondah Group of the Society, a very active group in Melbourne. While the recommendations are for conditions most suited for the cultivation of 500 plants under Melbourne conditions, they are also a valuable guide for all temperate areas.

The book is unique in that the plants are classified by colour bars over the period of flowering. This is the type of book we need, recommendations from a group of people who have planted wildflowers in their gardens, observed and recorded their results.

All the features of interest to the gardener are displayed in the most readily available form to allow easy reference. Tables tell at a glance the flowering times and flower colour, the height and width, general growth habit and requirements for moisture and sunlight. The tables are set out into columns for each month, with the months when the plant is in flower shown as coloured bars, the colour being the same shade as the flower. Height and width are given and single letter codes give other cultural details, including whether a plant is especially suitable to attract native birds to the garden.

The text is equally concise and readily followed. The main sections deal with how to go about planning a garden and preparing the soil, a step by step guide to planting and detailed information on garden maintenance, including information on mulching, watering, pruning, fertilising and pest control.

The 32-page book is \$3.00 by mail from J. Knight, 23 Hodson Road, Warrandyte, Vic., 3113.

Growing Australian Plants in Cold Climates

The Canberra Region is preparing an issue of "Australian Plants" devoted to the theme of Growing Australian plants in cold climates. The problems associated with gardening under these conditions will be discussed and some background information on the definition of a cold climate, the effects of frost, etc. are planned. Experiences with Australian plants overseas are being gathered and a section on container grown plants both indoors and outdoors will be included. The growing of plants in pots indoors or under shelter is a logical extension of a cold climate garden.

Since the bulk of information for the cold climate issue will be provided by readers, we are canvassing selected S.G.A.P. members from cold areas inviting their contributions in the form of articles, lists of proven plants or just a few comments on their cold climate gardening, indoor and container plant experiences. Good colour slides or prints of those plants mentioned are needed and will be returned promptly whether used or not.

If you have not received a letter of request and would like one, write and ask me, otherwise please just send your information direct to me, David Mackenzie, at 46 Cockle Street, O'Connor, A.C.T. 2601.

Calythropsis

by G. J. Keighery, Kings Park Botanic Garden, West Perth

Calythropsis is a monotypic genus of the family Myrtaceae tribe Chamelaucieae confined to South Western Australia. The genus was erected by Gardner (1942) and segregated from the closely related genera *Calytrix*, *Lhotskya*, *Wehlia* and *Homalocalyx* by the absence of sepals or calyx lobes, four not five petals and a strongly four ribbed calyx tube.

This group of genera is at present poorly defined and not easily separable. Many of the characters separating them relate to a loss of dispersal of the fruit (i.e. lack of sepals — *Calythropsis* or deciduous sepals — *Homalocalyx*), and this by itself is not a cause for generic separation. Study upon the biology of species of each of the genera may resolve which of these genera should be maintained.

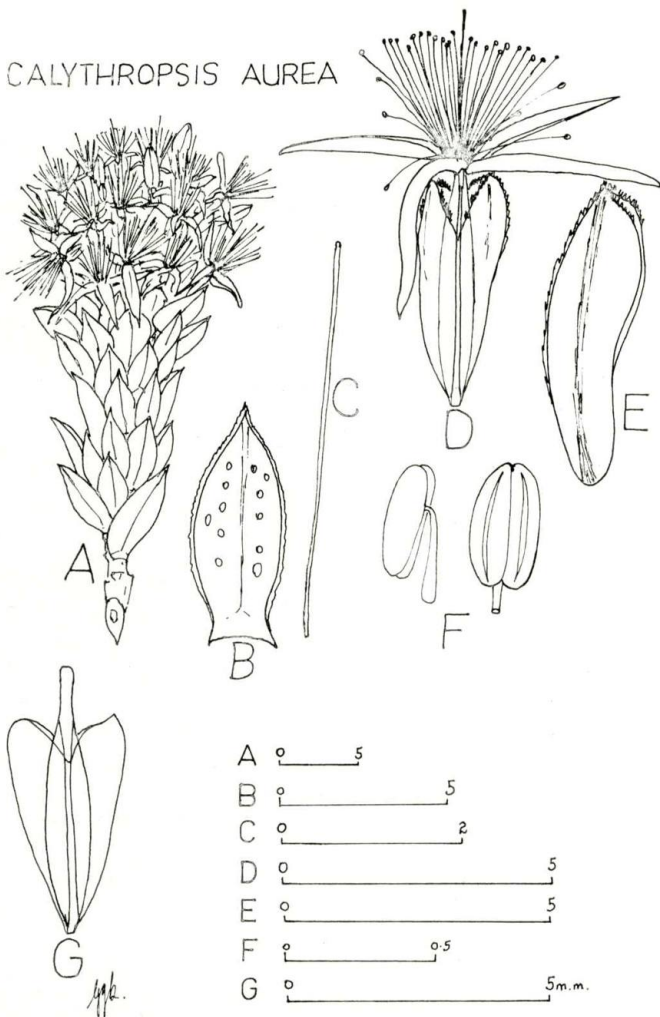


FIGURE 1. *Calythropsis aurea*

A: Inflorescence B: Leaf

C: Style

D: Flower

E: bracteole

F: anthers

G: Fruit

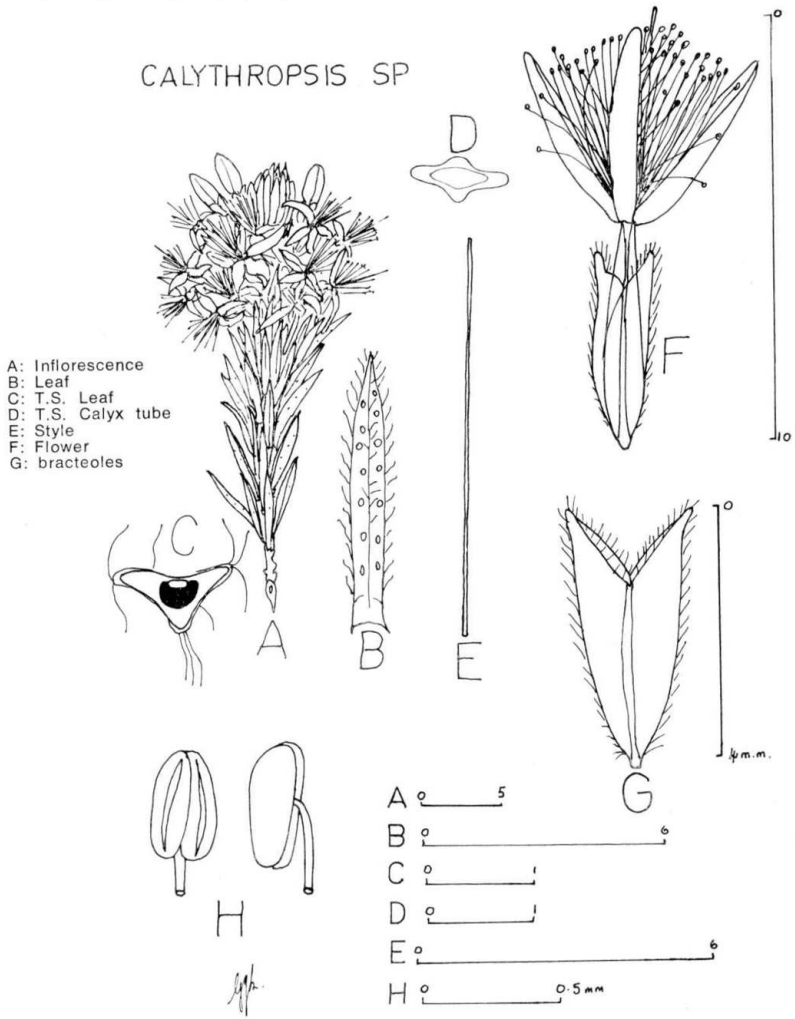
Calythropsis aurea C. A. Gardner (1942): Fig. 1.

An erect, slender branched, bushy shrub, 45 cm to 1.5 m. Leaves appressed, crowded, linear-ovate, 4-7 mm long. Flowers 1 cm diameter, golden yellow, borne on axillary pedicels closely packed in terminal clusters or with the central axis growing through. Bracteoles persistent, enveloping calyx tube. Calyx tube strongly 4 ribbed, 5 mm long, slender. Petals 4, acute deciduous. Stamens numerous, usually 20-40, free, exserted, deciduous. Anthers versatile, cells parallel, erect, opening in longitudinal slits. Style long, 8-10 cm long, slender, stigma minute. Ovary 1 celled, ovules 2. Fruit formed in scarcely enlarged calyx, held on bushes. Seed not known, no fruits found with mature seed.

This species occurs in the Irwin Botanical District of Western Australia, between Arrino and Morawa in the south to Ogilvie in the north, generally on sandy soils, but it has been recorded on one occasion on loam.

Flowering occurs between August and November.

***Calythropsis* sp.** (Fig. 2).



A second (as yet unnamed) species can be noted.

It is presently only known from a single collection lodged in Kings Park Herbarium from Badgingarra. It differs from *C. aurea* in having linear triquetrous sparsely hairy leaves, a smaller inflorescence and sparsely hairy bracteoles. Further collections of this species are needed.

HORTICULTURAL POTENTIAL

The species is attractive but is easily surpassed by many species of *Calytrix*. There is little information available on cultivation of the genus but it should be extremely similar to many species of *Calytrix*. Because of the restricted distribution of the two species, attempts will be made to bring them into cultivation. □

Calythropsis

Notes by R. J. Hubbard

Calythropsis is the most recently described W. Australian genus in the family Myrtaceae. The description was published in the *Journal of the Royal Society of W. Australia* 27: 188 (1940-1). It contains a single species and is endemic to the Irwin District of W.A. The generic name indicates a likeness to the related genus *Calytrix* — derived from the Greek word *opsis*: likened to, a reference to the star-like flowers. It is very close to both *Wehlia* and *Lhotskya* in its foliage and habit of growth and in the initial appearance of the flowers, but there are a number of very marked differences. It lacks both sepals and calyx lobes. The calyx tube is strongly 4-ribbed similar to that of *Actinodium* and as in that genus, there are only four petals instead of the five possessed by all the related genera. The bracteoles are similar to those of some *Calytrix* species. The ovary is very similar to that of *Calytrix* and *Lhotskya*. An additional difference from *Calytrix* of course is the absence of awns.

Calythropsis aurea C. A. Gardn.:

A slender, erect, densely foliaged, glabrous shrub, 60-90 cm, with slender branches and very short branchlets. *Leaves*: erect, shortly petiolate, very closely packed, oblong-lanceolate, acute to mucronate, concave, 1-nerved, medium green, 5-7 mm long, with ciliate margins. *Flowers*: yellow, 4-petalled, star-like, the stamens above 20, sessile, borne in the axils of overlapping bracts, in showy tight terminal globular clusters 1-2 cm diam., very similar to those of *Wehlia*, often three clusters together on very short branchlets, during early and mid-spring and probably longer. The petals are spreading and overlapping. The flowers are conspicuous from afar and are borne in profusion.

It occurs in sandy, clayey and loam soils. A beautiful shrub, but little-known and probably scarcely cultivated to date, even though its area of occurrence is a well-travelled one. Since it occurs naturally in both sandy and heavy soils, it should present little difficulty in most gardens and it would be a very ornamental addition to a rockery or border, in full sun or light top shade. Cultivation and propagation methods as for *Calytrix* and *Lhotskya* should be successful. The fruiting calyces are single-seeded. As in the case of the related genera, germination will probably be found to be difficult and propagation from cuttings will most likely produce far more reliable results. □

CORRECTION—Vol. 9, page 65

R. J. Hubbard, the author of the article "The Genus *Wehlia*", has queried a botanical correction made to his article. From the following it is clear that Richard Hubbard's use of the spelling originally of *Lhotskya* was correct.

"The genus *Lhotskya* has been published by J. C. Schauer in *Linnaea* 10: 309 (Feb.-Mar. 1836) with this spelling. It was named in honour of Dr. Johann Lhotsky of Vienna (born in Lemberg 27. vi. 1800), who was a botanical traveller in New South Wales and published "Journey from Sydney to the Australian Alps" (1835). There can be no doubt that the original spelling 'Lhotskya' is the correct one, which must be adhered to, as there is no conservation of another spelling effected in the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. Endlicher [in *Enum. Pl. Huegel*: 46 (iv. 1837)] appears to be the first author who created the subsequently frequently used wrongly spelt name 'Lhotzkya' for this genus of Myrtaceae."—H. J. Eichler, *Herbarium Australiense*, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra.

Fenzlia—Myrtella

A Myrtaceae of the North West

by G. J. Keighery, Kings Park Botanic Garden, West Perth

Hockings (1977) noted that *Fenzlia* contains three species, all found in North Queensland (*F. obtusa*, *F. microphylla* and *F. retusa*). However, the genus is considerably more complex than this.

Fenzlia obtusa and *F. microphylla* are restricted to Northern Queensland, but *F. retusa* also occurs in the Victoria River and Darwin Gulf districts of the Northern Territory (Chippendale 1971).

A fourth species (*Fenzlia phebaloides*) is restricted to the Kimberley Region of Western Australia.

***Fenzlia phebaloides* W. V. Fitzg.**

An erect shrub, 1-3 m, with numerous branches, clothed (except older branches) with a close white tomentum. Leaves petiolate, oblong to narrow lanceolate, upper dull green, below white tomentose. Flowers on slender pedicels, 1 cm long. Petals 1 cm diameter, red, woolly-tomentose. Filaments as long as petals red, anthers yellow. Style red. Fruit globular, hard one or two celled surmounted by calyx lobes.

Ecology: The species grows in shallow sandy soils over sandstone. Flowering occurs at the end of the wet.

Horticultural Potential: Unknown in cultivation, the species has small attractive red flowers and an aromatic foliage.

Papuan Species: Burret (1941) combined the Papuan genus *Myrtella* (erected by Mueller, 1877) with *Fenzlia* raising the number of species to seven, and considerably increased the range of the genus. This combination has only been partially accepted and the author is currently preparing to revise these genera. □

Myrtella

A Generic Name Change by R. J. Hubbard

The genus *Myrtella* (family Myrtaceae, tribe Myrtoideae) was named by F. Mueller in 1877. Formerly included in *Fenzlia* Endl., it now replaces the latter name which has been rejected as illegitimate (see A. J. Scott, *Kew Bulletin* 33: 299-302, 1978). There are nine species, four endemic to tropical Australia, four endemic to Papua New Guinea and one common to both areas. Three E. Australian species have been described under *Fenzlia* in past issues of *Australian Plants*. One species occurs in W.A., described by W. V. Fitzgerald in *Journal of the Royal Society of W.A.* 3: 189 (1918).

***Myrtella phebaloides* (W. V. Fitzg.) A. J. Scott.**

An erect, numerous branched, bushy shrub, 1.2-1.8 metres, the branches slender, the young growth covered with dense white matted hairs. **Leaves:** opposite, petiolate, oblong and narrow oblanceolate, obtuse, shortly tapering to base, thinly coriaceous, mostly 1.2-2.5 cm long, rarely longer, the margins flat or slightly revolute. **Flowers:** small, red, woolly, borne on slender pedicels 1.2-2.5 cm long, singly in the upper axils, forming opposite pairs. The style and stamens are red, the anthers yellow. There are two opposite pointed bracteoles beneath the calyx. Flowering March/April to August. The flowers are succeeded by dark purple, hard, glabrous, globular fruits or drupes, under 4 mm diam., usually single-seeded.

It occurs in sandy soils on the slopes of Tabletop Mountain in the Hann District in the N.W. Kimberley. It does not appear to have been recorded from elsewhere, though this may merely be due to difficulty of accessibility to areas of occurrence. It is an ornamental shrub which should be suitable for protected positions in tropical and sub-tropical gardens and also worth a trial in warm temperate gardens. It is not yet known in cultivation. The specific epithet, *phebaloides*, refers to a resemblance of the small flowers to those of *Phebalium*, a genus in the family Rutaceae (the *Boronia* group).

What plants should I grow there?

How often is a gardener faced with this problem. We publish many articles in each issue, confronting you with hundreds of species and many beautiful colour plates, but it gets back to "what species will I plant?"

The Australian Plant Study Group has put a lot of study into this problem, consulted the experts, the professionals and canvassed wildflower growers, and has finally produced a book, "Grow What Where", or "Australian Native Plants for Problem Areas and Special Uses". Thousands of species and forms of Australian plants are listed under 64 different headings. They have done this so well that it is proposed that these 64 headings with numbers be accepted as a standard reference in future. The group has worked in Melbourne and it could reasonably be considered that their lists apply to Southern Australian. Let us prepare similar lists for all areas under the following heading:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ground cover. | Coastal: Second Line. | 41. Shade trees. |
| Prostrate to 30 cm. | 22. Lime tolerant. | 42. Deciduous trees. |
| 2. Rockery. | 23. Frost resistant. | 43. Weeping. |
| 3. Tufties. | 23(a) Usually frost | 44. Silver foliage. |
| 4. Fence screening. | resistant. | 45. Variegated foliage. |
| 5. Hedge plants. | 24. Frost tender. | 46. Darkly contrasting |
| 6. Windbreaks. | 25. Quick growing. | foliage. |
| 7. Tall skinnies. | 26. Long flowering. | 47. Interesting foliage. |
| 8. Ground wet in win- | 27. Eucalypt Flower | 48. Interesting buds or |
| ter — dries out in | Calendar. | fruits. |
| summer. | 28. Acacia Flower | 49. Interesting trunks. |
| 9. Heavy and clay | Calendar. | 50. Berries. |
| soils: | 29. Grevillea Flower | 51. Perfumed flowers. |
| (a) Prostrate 1 m. | Calendar. | 52. Aromatic foliage. |
| (b) 1 m to 2 m. | 30. Summer flowering. | 53. Native conifers. |
| (c) Over 2 m. | 31. Autumn flowering. | 54. Hardy ferns. |
| 10. Shady moist. | 32. Winter flowering. | 55. Lawn alternatives. |
| 11. Shady dry. | 33. Cut flowers. | 56. Indoor plants. |
| 12. Permanently boggy. | 34. Tub plants. | 57. Firewood trees. |
| 13. Permanently wet | 35. Hanging baskets. | 58. Eucalypts which |
| and pond. | 36. Cascading plants. | may drop large |
| 14. Water absorbing. | 37. Climbers. | branches. |
| 15. Very sandy. | 38. Pricklies. | 59. Salt soil tolerant. |
| 16. Very dry. | 39. Bird attracting: | 60. Snow tolerant. |
| 17. Soil binding. | (a) Honeyeaters. | 61. Smog tolerant. |
| 18. Sand binding. | (b) Insect eaters. | 62. Gully erosion |
| 19. Layering. | (c) Seed eaters. | control. |
| 20. Suckering. | 40. Specimen trees | 63. Fodder. |
| 21. Coastal: Front Line. | and shrubs. | 64. Koala food trees. |

"GROW WHAT WHERE"—The book above available from the Editor, 860 Henry Lawson Drive, Picnic Point, N.S.W., 2213, for \$5.00, including postage. Limited quantities.

Australian Orchid Seed . . .

Seed of 21 species of epiphytic orchid and 29 species of terrestrial orchid species are available from Mr. A. J. Lawler, A.O.F. Seed Bank, Department of Biochemistry, the University of Sydney, 2006. This seed is one of the services provided by the Australian Orchid Foundation, a group of very dedicated people devoted to the promotion of Australia's native orchids. There will be more news of this group in later issues, but Mr. Lawler will pass on any enquiries. The first item to an order will cost \$1 Aust., and each additional packet will be 50 cents, all post free.

The cultivation of orchids from seed is not easy, as reference to past issues will confirm. It is a job requiring some skill and experience, but advice is available for trier.

Callistemon Cultivars

Latest releases from the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority

A cultivar is a plant that shows outstanding horticultural potential whether it is the development of a very good form of a true species (or even the growing on of an exceptionally good form found by accident and maintained for our enjoyment), or is a hybrid of different species.

Applications for the registration of cultivars are invited, addressed to the Secretary, Australian Cultivar Registration Authority National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, A.C.T. It is not essential for applications to contain all detail submitted here; supply as much of the information as you can and trained officers will assist in the final submission.

The first cultivar listed has become famous for its splendour and has been described in this journal in 1966. There is a host of *Callistemon* cultivars available commercially, the following being the first to be properly registered.

CALLISTEMON 'HARKNESS'

Syn: *Callistemon* 'Harkness Hybrid', *Callistemon* 'Gawler' and *Callistemon* 'Gawler Hybrid'.

Origin:

Confusion has surrounded the origin of *Callistemon* 'Harkness' for many years. According to the person after whom it was named, Mr. G. L. J. Harkness of Gawler, S.A. "... it was obtained in 1937 and was purchased from Harris Scarfes Ltd., who were supplied by Kemp's Nurseries. It was received by me with approximately 25 other trees and shrubs. ... There were two *Callistemons* in this order, *Callistemon lanceolatus* (now *Callistemon citrinus*) and *Callistemon coccineus* (now *Callistemon macropunctatus*). *Callistemon citrinus* turned out to be the hybrid which is still growing on my property. The first plants from *Callistemon* 'Harkness' were propagated by me in 1948. It has never set seed, and propagating was done from cuttings." (The above passage is taken from the S.A. S.G.A.P. Journal, p. 3, Jan. 1970).

Description:

The leaves are entire and up to 130 mm long by up to 12 mm wide.

The flowers are produced in long dense "bottlebrush" clusters. These clusters are produced in bunches of up to 11 "brushes". Individual "bottlebrushes" are red and up to 150 mm long by about 55 mm wide. The stamens are the colourful parts of the flower.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from other *Callistemon* cultivars in its long, dense and clustered red inflorescences.

Colour Coding: R.H.S. Colour Chart, 1966 edition.

Stamens: red 52A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens 28. Cultivar received by the Authority: 1st May 1974. Applicant: Mr. G. L. J. Harkness.

Previously mentioned:

"Australian Plants", Vol. 3, p. 349, Sept. 1966.

CALLISTEMON 'MAUVE MIST'

Origin:

Callistemon 'Mauve Mist' is a seedling selected from about 300 which were raised from seed collected from *Callistemon* 'Reeve's Pink'.

Description:

This cultivar forms a dense shrub to a height of about 3 m, with an equal or slightly wider spread.

The leaves are entire and about 50 mm long by about 8 mm wide. The new tip growth is pink and densely covered with silky hairs.

The flowers are produced in dense "bottlebrush" clusters. The clusters are often produced in bunches. Individual "bottlebrushes" are pinkish-mauve and about 70 mm long by about 50 mm wide. The stamens are the colourful parts of the flower. It is reported that this cultivar will flower as late as Christmas. See page 8 for a colour plate.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from *Callistemon* 'Reeve's Pink' in flower colour. *Callistemon* 'Mauve Mist' has pinkish-mauve "brushes", compared with pink for *Callistemon* 'Reeve's Pink'.

Colour Coding: R.H.S. Colour Chart, 1966 edition.

Just released stamens: red-purple 71B.

Fully released stamens: between 67B and C.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens 29. Cultivar received by the Authority: 21st October 1967. Applicant: Mr. G. Wilson.

Previously mentioned:

"Austraflora" nursery catalogue 1970/71.

"Landscaping with Australian Shrubs", G. Wilson, 1975.

"Your Garden", March 1977.

CALLISTEMON 'REEVE'S PINK'

Origin:

Callistemon 'Reeve's Pink' is a chance seedling variant of uncertain parentage. However, there are affinities with *Callistemon citrinus*. It originated at the nursery of Mr. Reeve, Snr., at Cheltenham, Victoria, and was discovered there by Mr. G. Wilson in 1957/58.

Description:

The cultivar forms a dense shrub to a height of about 3 m, with an equal or slightly wider spread.

The leaves are entire and about 45 mm long by about 8 mm wide. The new tip growth is pink and densely covered with silky hairs.

The flowers are produced in dense "bottlebrush" clusters, which are themselves often grouped into bunches. Individual "bottlebrushes" are pink and about 70 mm long and about 40 mm wide. The stamens are the colourful parts of the flower.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from its possible parent in its slightly more spreading habit and pink flower colour. The usual colour of *Callistemon citrinus* is red or lemon.

Colour Coding: R.H.S. Colour Chart, 1966 edition.

Stamens: red-purple 62A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens 41. Cultivar first received by the Authority: 21st November 1967. Applicant: Mr. G. Wilson.

Previously mentioned:

"Austraflora" nursery catalogue 1970/71.

"Landscaping with Australian Plants", G. Wilson, 1975.

"Your Garden", March 1977.

CALLISTEMON 'WOLLUMBIN'

Origin:

Callistemon 'Wollumbin' is said to be a seedling variant of *Callistemon viminalis*. It was raised by Mr. Davidson of Wollumbin, N.S.W.

Description:

The three-year-old shrub is about 2 m high with a spread of about 1 m.

The leaves are up to 60 mm long by up to 9 mm wide.

The flowers are produced in dense "bottlebrush" clusters. Individual "bottlebrushes" are salmon coloured and about 35 mm long by about 40 mm wide. The stamens are the colourful parts of the flower. It is stated that this cultivar has a short flowering period of 7-12 days. However, it flowers in spring and again at the end of January.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from other known forms of *Callistemon viminalis* in its salmon coloured flowers instead of the usual red.

Colour Coding: R.H.S. Colour Chart, 1966 edition.

Stamens: between red 40D and 41C.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens 151. Cultivar first received by the Authority: 1st Feb. 1978. Applicant: Mr. D. Davidson.

CALLISTEMON 'BURGUNDY'**Origin:**

Callistemon 'Burgundy' is a seedling selected from about 300 which were raised from seed collected from *Callistemon* 'Reeve's Pink'.

Description:

This cultivar forms a dense shrub to a height of about 3 m, with an equal or slightly wider spread.

The leaves are entire and about 45 mm long by about 8 mm wide. The new tip growth is pink and densely covered with silky hairs.

The flowers are produced in dense "bottlebrush" clusters. These clusters are often produced in bunches. Individual "bottlebrushes" are very dark red fading to deep purple-violet with age. They are about 90 mm long by about 45 mm wide. The stamens are the colourful parts of the flower.

Diagnosis:

This cultivar is different from *Callistemon* 'Reeve's Pink' and *Callistemon* 'Mauve Mist' in flower colour. *Callistemon* 'Burgundy' has very dark red "brushes", compared with pink for *Callistemon* 'Reeve's Pink' and pinkish-mauve for *Callistemon* 'Mauve Mist'.

Colour Coding: R.H.S. Colour Chart, 1966 edition.

Freshly picked flowers not available for colour coding.

Fully released stamens: red-purple 71A.

Reference Specimen:

Accession number: National Botanic Gardens 26. Cultivar first received by the Authority: 21st October 1967. Applicant: Mr. G. Wilson.

Previously mentioned:

"Australflora" nursery catalogue 1970/71.

"Landscaping with Australian Shrubs", G. Wilson, 1975.

"Your Garden", March 1977.

CORRECTION TO DESCRIPTION**GREVILLEA 'PINK SURPRISE'**

The Australian Cultivar Registration Authority has been notified of an error in the description of this cultivar, in Vol. 9, No. 73, p. 203.

The Authority wishes to point out that descriptions are prepared from information supplied on the application form and from examination of specimens. Material sent for publication is correct to the best of our knowledge at the time it is submitted.

Following publication the Authority was notified of an error in the description concerning the cultivar's origin. In the description published the origin is given as Mr. R. Bailey's garden at Indooroopilly, when in fact the cultivar originated in Mrs. W. Bristow's garden at Sherwood, Queensland, and was subsequently given to Mr. Bailey.

The Authority apologises for any inconvenience which may have occurred.
—David Young, Registrar.

Callistemons from Cuttings

by GORDON COUSINS

In my hands, regular success in growing callistemons from cuttings is entirely dependent upon selection of cutting material at the right stage of growth.

The state of the terminal and axillary leaf ends is the key factor. The leaf buds should be swelling — not dormant, nor with young leaves showing. The cuttings used are 8 to 10 cm long and 2 mm thick — as thick as a match. With such cuttings, probably any reasonable technique would give good results.

My method has given success in about 90% of cuttings of *Callistemon* 'Harkness' and an estimated 150 plants have been grown over the years. Other species such as *C. polandii*, *C. subulatus*, *C. gilesii* and *C. salignus* pink form, have succeeded but the smaller numbers preclude percentage estimates.

Summary of my procedures.

- (1) Leaves stripped from bottom half of cutting. 3 or 4 leaves left on top half and shortened by half.
- (2) Cuttings pushed into wet vermiculite in 5 cm propagation pots — 5 or 6 to a pot.
- (3) Pots placed in an ice cream container with 2 or 3 cm of wet sawdust in the bottom and enclosed in a polythene bag sealed off with a clothes peg.
- (4) Container is placed in a warm position in semi shade.
- (5) Container is opened every 2 or 3 weeks. When roots appear, the propagation pot is emptied under water. Unrooted cuttings are reset in vermiculite. The bag is resealed after wetting contents with a fine spray of hose.
- (6) Rooted cuttings are planted in a sandy loam taking care to plant deeply (2 cm).
- (8) Young cuttings are protected from hot dry winds in a shade house for several days, until established.

The Callistemon Study Project

Trevor Whiffin of the Department of Botany, Latrobe University, Bundoora, Victoria, 3083, will be conducting a scientific study of the genus *Callistemon* in association with Peter Lumley, Senior Botanist, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, Victoria. The objective is to define the species under their correct botanical names and the various horticultural forms and cultivars.

The study is essentially a scientific one, but will be dependent on people throughout Australia as indicated below. The study will be in three stages.

Firstly there will be a preliminary study of the known natural species. It is hoped that this will indicate the approximate relationships and groupings the species and also serve to indicate the characters which will be important in the longer-term study. The approach is to use the morphology (form) and chemistry (leaf volatile oils) of the plants. The second phase will be to study the variation within all species. Specimens will be collected from natural populations throughout the range of various species. This is a longer-term study and will take perhaps three or four years. Trevor Whiffin will be visiting Western Australia next August and will be spending time in Queensland for much of the second half of next year. He will, over the next few years, visit all areas where *Callistemon* occurs naturally. Collections will also be introduced into cultivation, via cuttings, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, by Peter Lumley throughout this study.

Finally the study will be of all cultivated forms and varieties, including hybrids, with attempts to relate these back to their natural species.

Readers are invited to co-operate with Trevor Whiffin, who advises: "I would much appreciate any help people can give me during the first and final stages. For the methods that I use, I need approximately 100 to 200 grams of fresh leaf material, and also dried pressed specimens, preferably of both flowering and fruiting material. Normally I would collect these myself, with the help of the member concerned, so just write to me first. For the preliminary study I would like to obtain material of all natural species as soon as possible. Thus I will need to obtain much of this from botanical gardens and private collections, as I am unable to visit all areas. I would want to collect from three to five separate plants of each species (not those from the same source). Any help that you can give me to obtain this material would be much appreciated. I have started my collections visiting southern Queensland and northern New South Wales during October, and Canberra in November. For this preliminary study I got my material from botanic gardens or private persons with large collections; I would collect from natural populations or small private gardens only to fill in the gaps.

"If readers know of any natural stands of *Callistemon*, particularly the more unusual or less common forms, or outside of the normal distribution, then let me have details of the locality. Again, if the form is very unusual, a dried, pressed specimen would be very helpful.

"In certain circumstances I would require more material of a particular plant. In this case I would correspond directly with the member.

"Your help in the final stage will be even more important. I would want to obtain material from all cultivated varieties, forms and hybrids. These will, of course, be entirely in private collections and botanical gardens. I probably will not start collecting these for a couple of years, but at that time your help will be much appreciated. However, if members have any unusual hybrids or cultivars growing, then send me a dried, pressed specimen of these.

Preparation of Dried, Pressed Specimens

"There are several ways of preparing a dried, pressed specimen. If the person has no botanical equipment, then the following method is probably simplest.

"Select a branch with flowering spike and leaves, approximately 15" long; if possible, select also a second branch with fruit. Place these between newspaper (about 10 sheets either side of specimen) and press flat for a period of days with a heavy weight, such as a pile of large books, etc. Change the newspaper each day, although the newspaper can be re-used after allowing to air. As far as possible allow air circulation near the specimen when being pressed. When the specimen is more or less dry (up to one week) pack between newspaper (much as before) and sheets of cardboard for mailing. The following information should be sent with the specimen: height of plant; colour of spike; if it is a cultivated plant, then any details available on its origin; if a natural stand, then locality information; name and address of collector. How Everyone Can Help."

Grow and Propagate *Callistemon*

Callistemon are beautiful, easily grown shrubs that will grace your garden. Grow as many species and forms as you can get over the next few years and see which are the very best. We shall propagate only from the best, so advise Doris Phelps of your experiences and recommendations. The need for selection and vegetative propagation is illustrated by the following report in the *Callistemon* Study Group newsletter by Aileen Black, Valentine, N.S.W., 2280:

"I have a number of species of *Callistemon* growing successfully in the clay and conglomerate area of Lake Macquarie. Getting the better forms sorted out is certainly required, as shown by my attempts to get a good *Callistemon pinifolius*, green form. My first plant from a nurseryman turned

out to be a very poor pink. My second plant from the Forestry Commission was another poor quality pink. The third plant from a native plant nursery was at least green, but with such a poor open tatty head I scrapped it after the second year. Finally I decided to persevere with cuttings from a friend's plant. I now have a beautiful plant which has thick, closely packed, large apple-green heads which are a real joy. There is a natural area on the far side of Lake Macquarie where my friend's plant came from. Unfortunately, this area is fast being built on and I fear it will not be long before it disappears completely."

These are the plants the Callistemon Study Group will propagate from—only the best. Special equipment or skills are not needed to propagate *Callistemon*. Get some seed—you will get hundreds of plants in a few months. Refer to Australian Plants, Vol. 9, on how to do this. Select the very best forms and grow from cuttings.

The article by G. S. Cousins, in this issue, is taken from the Callistemon Study Group newsletter. It describes how you can grow beautiful plants from cuttings taken from the most beautiful shrubs without the need for special equipment or skills. Try it!

Melaleuca Study Group

Leader: Ralph Campbell, 58 Lee-Steere Cres., Kambah, ACT, 2602

This group was established at the Sydney Region meeting in September, 1976, when 90 tubes of seedlings were distributed to members. Over the next year 675 packets of seeds were sent out to members who have joined the group and no doubt by now over 1000 packets have been sent by request. As at August, 1978, 305 reports on the sowing of seed have been received.

Approximately 60% of the members reported using the "Bog" method,, about 15% use capillary beds and the remainder use a variety of methods including the dunk method (i.e. hold pots in a container of water until the water comes up through the medium to make the surface quite moist), overhead sprays, egg cartons, etc. These methods are well described in the No. 69 issue and following issues.

Over 90% of potting mixes include organic matter such as peat moss, compost or leaf litter and 20% of these also include fertiliser such as "osmocote" and blood and bone.

The major problems arise from getting the seedlings to grow vigorously before and after transplanting. Care should be taken that seedlings, when potted on, are not planted lower in the potting soil than they were in the propagating pot.

This problem and many others are being examined by the study group members. No special competence is required and simple directions yield good results.

The August, 1978 newsletter for this group describes thirty species alphabetically A-I and gives summary of the hundreds of reports received on their propagation. Future newsletters will continue this. Seed of 64 species is listed as being available to members. All this for \$1.00 per year sent to the study group leader above.

Future work will include the selection of the best forms of each species and propagation will be confined to these. The newsletter lists 16 species for which cutting material is available for exchange. Experience to date indicates that some species are not easy from cuttings but that the simple methods described in past issues of Australian Plants will yield good results.

Good work by Ralph and his friends .Why not join them?

See page 33 for details of other Study Groups



Photography by Erica Crane

Hibbertia lineata

Hibbertia are beautiful small shrubs ideal for the garden as ground cover or specimen plants. Why not join the Hibbertia Study Group by writing to Bernard Dixon, 82 Gilbertson Road, Kardinya, W.A., 6163.

A South Australian Wattle

A Name Change, by D. J. E. WHIBLEY,
State Herbarium, Botanic Garden, Adelaide

Acacia leiophylla Benth., *London J. Bot.* 1:351 (1842); description and illustrations by B. R. Maslin and D. J. E. WHIBLEY, in *Nuytsia*, Vol. 2, No. 3 (1977).

Syn. *Acacia retinodes* Schltl. var. *oraria*, J. M. Black ex C. M. Eardley in J. M. Black, *Flor. S. Aust.*, Ed. 2, 4:945 (1957).

Bentham originally described *Acacia leiophylla* in 1842, but when he wrote the *Flora Australiensis* (1864) he placed *A. leiophylla* as a synonym under *A. saligna*. Since this time there has been considerable confusion concerning the application of the name *A. leiophylla*, and subsequent authors have tended to accept Bentham's later view.

After examination of material at Kew, B. R. Maslin (Western Australian Herbarium) found that the type of *Acacia leiophylla* belonged to the same taxon that was described as *Acacia retinodes* Schltl. var. *oraria* J. M. Black ex C. M. Eardley. As studies of typical *A. retinodes* and of Miss Eardley's variety suggest that the differences are greater than she recognised, it has been decided to raise the variety once more to species rank under the earlier name of *A. leiophylla*.

HABIT: Variable, either dense, compact and single stemmed, or spreading and openly branched shrub, 1-2.5 m high, with a number of stems arising from near ground level; branchlets reddish, glabrous, terete, slightly angular and flexuose towards the apex.

PHYLLODES: Flat, pale green, lanceolate, falcate, 7-17 cm long, 9-25 mm broad, usually broadest point above the middle of phyllode; mid-nerve prominent, lateral veins rather obscure; a small gland on the upper margin 4-15 mm from the base; petiole 5-15 mm long, twisted and wrinkled.

INFLORESCENCE: Heads globular, in axillary racemes, shorter than the phyllodes, or in spreading panicles at the ends of branchlets; raceme axis glabrous, slightly flexuose, with short peduncles 4-5 mm long; flower heads bright yellow, 25-30 flowered, flowers 5-merous.

PODS: Flattish, dark brown, linear, straight, 9-12 cm long, 5-6 mm broad, surface undulate, raised over the seeds, margins light brown, slightly constricted between the seeds; seeds longitudinal or slightly oblique; funicle encircling the seed in a double fold, gradually expanding into a pale yellowish curved aril.

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Eyre Peninsula, south-western tip of Yorke Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, along the Coorong to the south-east corner near Mt. Gambier. Growing in or near coastal regions in open scrub, mallee-heath vegetation associated with *Eucalyptus diversifolia*, *Acacia pycnantha* and *Acacia longifolia* var. *sophorae*, on calcareous sand or shallow, porous red loam.

Acacia leiophylla has so far only been found in South Australia, but as it occurs very close to the Victorian border it is probable that it could be found in the south-west corner of Victoria.

FLOWERING TIME: August-November.

CULTIVATION: A very handsome shrub, profusely flowering in spring, does well in sandy, calcareous soils near the coast and adaptable to a variety of soils further inland in the medium rainfall areas. Fast growth rate.

RELATED SPECIES: The following species are closely related and are briefly described, giving the main characters in which they differ.

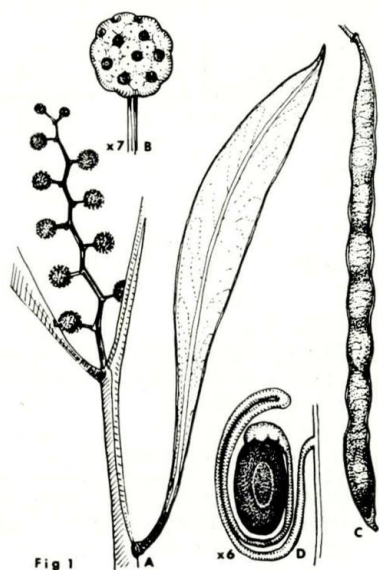


Fig 1

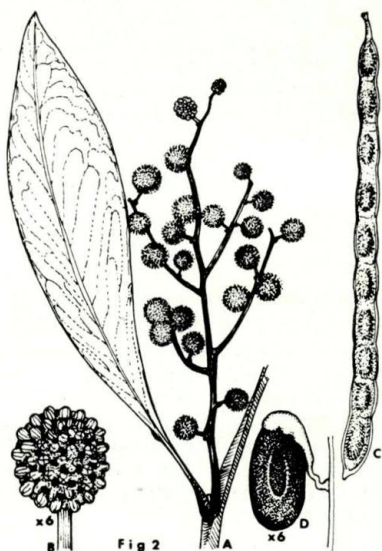


Fig 2

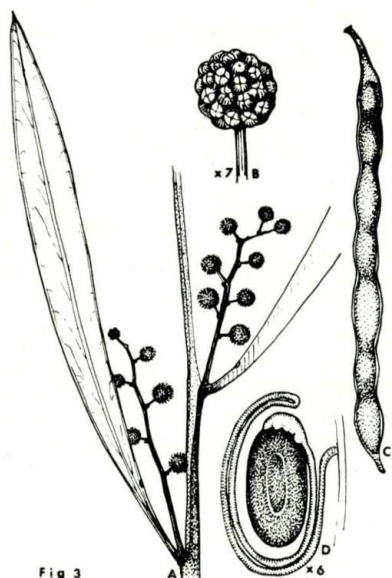


Fig 3



Fig 4

FIG. 1. *Acacia leiophylla*—A. Flowering twig; B. Flower head; C. Pod; D. Seed and funicle.

FIG. 2. *Acacia pycnantha*—A. Flowering twig; B. Flower head; C. Pod; D. Seed and funicle.

FIG. 3. *Acacia retinodes*—A. Flowering twig; B. Flower head; C. Pod; D. Seed and funicle.

FIG. 4. *Acacia rubida*—A. Flowering twig; B. Flower head; C. Pod; D. Seed and funicle.

—Illustrations by L. Dutkiewicz, State Herbarium, Botanic Garden, Adelaide.

1. *Acacia pycnantha* Benth.

A glabrous, medium-sized shrub or small tree, 4-8 m high. Phyllodes flat, coriaceous, oblanceolate, falcate, 6-20 cm long, 5-50 mm broad, usually broadest above the centre; mid-nerve prominent and numerous conspicuous fine curved lateral nerves. Inflorescence of axillary racemes or panicles towards the end of branchlets. Heads large, 50-60 flowered, on short, stout peduncles. Pods flattish, brown, with longitudinal seeds, funicle short, thickened into a small, fleshy aril.

FLOWERING TIME: August-October.

DISTRIBUTION: This species occurs in southern Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, Flinders Range, Mt. Lofty Range, South East and Kangaroo Island. Also found in Vic., N.S.W. and A.C.T.

2. *Acacia retinodes* Schldt.

A tall, glabrous shrub or small tree up to 8 m high, with a bluish-green, conical, or rounded crown. Branchlets reddish-brown, acutely angled, becoming smooth, greyish and almost terete. Phyllodes flat, thin, dull bluish-green, linear-lanceolate, oblanceolate, straight or slightly curved, with a small recurved point, 8-20 cm long, 3-15 mm broad, with a prominent mid-nerve and numerous fine lateral nerves. Inflorescence of loose axillary racemes or panicles towards the ends of the branches. Heads small, ca. 40 flowered on thin peduncles. Pods linear, brown, 3-14 cm long, 6-8 mm broad. Seeds longitudinal, funicle long, reddish-brown, encircling the seeds in a double fold, thickening into a whitish aril.

FLOWERING TIME: At irregular periods throughout the year, but mainly summer months.

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Lofty Range, Murray region around Monarto, Kangaroo Island and a local occurrence near Port Lincoln.

3. *Acacia rubida* A.Cunn.

A bushy shrub or small tree, 2-10 m high, branches reddish-brown, sharply angled. Phyllodes flat, coriaceous, lanceolate, straight or falcate, 5-15 cm long, 8-15 mm broad, acuminate or acute, margins and both surfaces usually becoming tinged with red upon drying; mid-nerve prominent, lateral nerves obscure. Bipinnate foliage sometimes present at the base and on flowering branches. Inflorescence a raceme, shorter than phyllodes. Heads small, 10-15 flowered. Pods flattish, straight or slightly curved, to 10 cm long, ca. 5 mm broad; seeds longitudinal, funicle encircling the seeds in a double fold and gradually tapering into an oblique aril.

FLOWERING TIME: July-October.

DISTRIBUTION: Vic., Qld, N.S.W. and A.C.T. Has been mentioned by J. H. Willis in the *Handbook to Plants in Victoria*, Vol. II (1972), as occurring in S. Aust. It was thought in the past that it probably occurred in the lower South East, but no Herbarium specimens collected in South Australia match *A. rubida*. I feel sure that it was confused with material that has now been described under *A. leiophylla* for South Australia.

ABOUT HAY FEVER

Many people are prejudiced against WATTLES because they think they are a major cause of hay fever.

Here is the opinion of the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories:— 1st October, 1974. GRASSES, in general, are the most important hay fever plants. WATTLE is frequently suspected and does sometimes cause nasal irritation (as do many other plants such as COSMOS, DAHLIAS, etc.), but it is usually found that INCONSPICUOUS WEEDS or GRASSES are the real culprits."

WHAT? No Holes?

As directed by the Regional Society officers in each state copies of Australian Plants will only be supplied with holes already drilled to NSW members. However in the hope that you can manage to drill your own holes, D-Ring binders are still available at \$3.00 plus 60 c postage from The Editor.



Acacia rubida

Photography by Peter Althofer

Reprinted from the book "Acacias of New South Wales", by Inez Armitage. A book produced in clear, simple language of the wattles of N.S.W. All species are illustrated by line drawings that will enable you to identify the wattles growing naturally anywhere in N.S.W. Illustrated further by 54 colour plates, this 200-page book will be of exceptional value at the introductory price of \$7.50, plus 50c postage.

THE ACACIA STUDY GROUP

The new leader for the Acacia Study Group is Mrs. Marion Simmons, P.O. Box 1148, Legana, Tasmania. Marion has been studying Acacia for many years and we are indeed fortunate to secure the services of such a competent specialist. What is a Study Group?

Study groups comprise a number of members, usually without any prior experience, who undertake to grow plants in their gardens and report results. They usually operate by mail through a leader, who supplies seed, advice and, in some cases, plants. The objective is to grow and develop better forms of species, or to determine the best growing conditions of species already available.

STUDY GROUPS

ACACIA—Leader: Mrs. M. Simmons, P.O. Box 1148, Legana, Tasmania, 7251.
 BANKSIA—Leader: Mr. Trevor Blake, 12 Little John Court, Vermont 3133, Victoria.
 BEAUFORTIA—Leader: Mr. Brian Walters, 19 Hurley Street, Toongabbie 2146, N.S.W.
 CALLISTEMON—Leader: Mrs. D. Phelps, Loxton North, S.A., 5333.
 CALYTRIX—Leader: Mrs. Joan Doney, 64 Cary Street, Wyoming 2251, N.S.W.
 DRYANDRA—Leader: Mr. Tony Cavanagh, 2 Wilkinson Street, Ocean Grove 3226, EREMAEA—Leader: Mrs. Lyn Parry, "Floralands", Karlong 2251, N.S.W.
 EREMOPHILA—Leader: Mr. G. Needham, 2 Stuckey Ave., Underdale 5032, S.A.
 EUCALYPTUS—Leader: Mr. L. J. Daniels, Research Station, P.O. Box 201, Biloela 4715, FERN—Leader: Mrs. Gerry Parker, 7 Blackbutts Road, French's Forest 2086.
 GREVILLEA—Leader: Mr. M. Hodge, 25 Barford Street, Moorooka, Qld., 4105.
 HAKEA—Leader: Dr. M. M. Berratt, Lot 33, Cranebrook Road, Cranebrook, N.S.W., 2750.
 HIBBERTIA—Leader: Mr. Bernard Dixon, 82 Gilbertson Road, Kardinia, W.A., 6163.
 MELALEUCA—Leader: Mr. Ralph Campbell, 58 Lee-Steere Crescent, Kambah, A.C.T., 2902.
 RUTACEAE—Leader: Dr. Mervyn L. Turner, 14 Rose Avenue, Boronia, Victoria, 3155.
 STYLIIDIUM—Leader: Mr. Richard Davidson, 16 Toolera Street, Melton South, Victoria, 3338.

To become a member send \$1.00, with a stamped, addressed envelope, to one of the leaders above. No more members for the fern group at present.

ART IN BARK

by Danny Zam, President of A.B.A., 62 Lynnegrove Avenue, Corinda, Q. 4075

A study of the history of arts will reveal the influence of arts on society over a long period of time. The influential educational forces of the Arts are in many instances responsible for progress and improvement of the living standard of our society. The main aim of each individual artist still will be communication with the public and nature.

The earliest white settlers in Australia had a hard and difficult task to assimilate with nature in a climate so different to their own. Living in hand made slab huts, their homes were constant reminders of blood blistered hands and breaking backs.

We surmise that it happened somewhere on the Darling Downs of Queensland, approximately 120 years ago, that settlers, dependent only on their personal abilities, first found that pieces of charred bark from the Melaleuca Trees (Tea-Trees) could be used to depict landscapes or other scenes, reminding them nostalgically of the beauties of the past. The rough interiors of the cabins became more homely with the pictures skilfully framed as decoration.

Neighbours and friends would admire the pictures and produce versions of their own, developing and improving until the style and variety of today had been reached.

Art in Bark is indigenous to Australia, and possibly unique as an art medium. It can be shared by the whole family, and leisure hours spent in the country can be enjoyed creating bark pictures from materials gathered in the district.

Everyone can learn to make good pictures! You can learn to create bark pictures if you possess intelligence, an open mind, normal eyesight, a lot of sincere interest plus an equal amount of perseverance. Skill can be acquired, and in a reasonable length of time very acceptable work can be produced. Many beginners fall by the wayside because of lack of interest, confidence or perseverance.

Before attempting a difficult subject you must master the small and simple one — LEARN TO SEE the beauty in shape, colour and texture while you are collecting bark. All bark (paper bark, banana trash, thin eucalyptus bark, etc.) should be sprayed with insecticide, and pressed between newspaper and stored in polythene bags for future use.

Australian trees and plants have more to offer than flowers lasting a few days. Take for instance *Melaleuca*: beside economic and aesthetic contribution, they are a major supply of beautiful textured paper-bark of irreplaceable colours.

Bark artists are seeking co-operation with nature lovers, botanists and nurserymen to learn more about colours and textures of bark (not only the top layer — these are bleached) to exploit this unique gift of nature. It is important to have on hand an assortment of colours and textures of various barks. Growing your own trees and exchanging bark is now very common. The problem is in recognition of trees bearing most wanted bark. S.G.A.P. members' knowledge could be an extremely great help to make this list of coloured barks a "complete artist palette" of living media for art in bark. (List attached.)

The base for bark pictures should be solid and as light as possible. Recommended are: solid board (core boards), plywood, masonite or other chip boards.

Glue is water soluble (breakable), of white colour and clear when dry. Other instruments: thin filleting knife for splitting banana trash and bark; polyethylene bag of sand (min. 5 kg) for pressing glued bark; soldering iron (30TS — 240V 30W) for soft burning of bark; rag, to take off excess glue before pressing.

Once you know something about the unique colours and textures of bark, and how to use and apply it, an attempt at a simple landscape can be made by drawing the outline in charcoal or soft pencil.

Start with the sky — in one piece or more — and work from the top down. Apply glue and spread evenly on the area covering the sky. The colour of the bark representing the sky should be lightest on the horizon. The bark must be as thin (single layer) as possible, and the whole area must be spread with glue for good application. When pressing under a sand bag excess of glue will appear on the edges and these must be removed by pressing with a rag. Any folds in the bark are easy to patch up with off-cuts. Loosely tear the thin bark and stick over the holes, beating the bark edges with a small hammer or other hard object. This will give perfect joins.

Select Australian motifs of beautiful values only. Remember that objects in the foreground are of stronger colour value than in the far distance. Compare sizes, shapes and values.

Enthusiastic "bark artists" are sharing knowledge one with the other. The Art in Bark Association of Australia also provides lectures and demonstrations for members once a week in the Technical and Further Education Building, William Street, Brisbane, Q.

BOTANICAL NAME	TOP	BARK COLOUR AND TEXTURE INNER	FLOWERS LEAVES & OTHER
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Soft papery to white-grey	Corky light brown	broad leaves cream-white
<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	Soft papery white-grey	light brown to pink	feathery-white In Summer
<i>Melaleuca decora</i>	Soft papery white-grey	light pink to red or brown	greenish white Spring — Summer
<i>Melaleuca irbyana</i>	Soft papery grey	soft yellow	small leaves Inflorescence Sum.
<i>Melaleuca sieberi</i>	Soft papery white-grey	light brown pink, red	white — Infloresc. Spring wet condition
<i>Melaleuca leucadendron</i>	Soft — corky grey	yellow — white pink	3-5 nerved L.
<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i>	light grey	light brown red	red, green, white or pink
<i>Denhamia</i>	Rich orange bark (2 layers) on root only	Stiff thin corky	
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	papery small flakes w. fibre	pink, red yellow	cream-white small brush
<i>Eucalyptus tessellaris</i>	stiff Grey-light blue — smooth tex		cream-white blooms — Christmas
<i>Dillenia alata</i>	flaky texture — papery dark grey	papery red ruby	yellow flowers large leaves

THE CRADLE OF INCENSE

The Genus *Prostanthera*—by George W. Althofer

An exceptional book about our beautiful mint bushes, known botanically as *Prostanthera*. Why then the odd title, "The Cradle of Incense"? It makes fascinating reading.

With 192 pages, including 70 colour photos of our beautiful mint bushes, and 38 pages of simple, clear sketches, this book is exceptional value.

Available from the Editor for \$12.00, plus 60c postage.

The Genus *Melichrus* R.Br.

T. J. HAWKESWOOD, *University of New England, N.S.W.*

The genus *Melichrus*, first described in 1810 by Robert Brown, and represented by only four species, is yet another beautiful group of the heath family Epacridaceae. It is endemic to N.S.W., Queensland and Victoria, *M. urceolatus* and *M. procumbens* being the most common or widespread, or the most well-known species found. Paterson (1957) has covered all the species in quite some detail for those interested in more taxonomic information than is given here.

The *Melichrus* species are small or medium-sized, erect or procumbent, mostly prickly shrubs with sessile linear-to broad-lanceolate leaves. The flowers are axillary, solitary and sessile with several bracts and two bracteoles embracing the calyx. In all the species, the stems have a scaly texture; this is due to the leaves having fallen off, leaving leaf-scars. The corolla-tube is short and broad with five densely glandular scales inside, alternating with the stamens. The globular or pea-shaped glands are prominent and reddish (Paterson 1957). It is from the colour of the glands that *Melichrus* receives its name; it is from the Greek *melichros*, meaning honey-coloured. The spreading corolla-lobes are longer than the tube, and are valvate in bud; they may be bearded or glabrous (i.e. without hairs) inside. The five stamens are epipetalous (i.e. attached to the petals without filaments), and alternate with the corolla-lobes; the anthers are oblong and one-celled. The ovary is usually five-locular with a single ovule in each loculus. The style is very short. The fruit is a drupe with a dry or slightly pulpy mesocarp and a hard, bony endocarp containing five seeds, or fewer by abortion.

A large quantity of nectar is produced by the nectary glands, so much so, that I have adapted the vernacular name of "nectar-heath" to this group so that the two species, *M. adpressus* and *M. erubescens* may have a common name, as I believe no specific vernacular name has been given to these two species.

A key to the species follows, as well as a brief description of the species and a few notes on cultivation.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF MELICHRUS

- A. Leaves ciliate, sprinkled with longish hairs, flat, finely pointed but not pungent to touch, 12-28 mm 1.2-4 mm wide, linear-lanceolata. Corolla cream, urceolate in bud but rotate when open.
Jam Tarts. *M. procumbens* (Cav.) Druce (1917)
syn. *M. rotatus* R.Br. (1810).
- *A. Leaves usually glabrous, pungent to touch.
- B. Leaves with distinct papery margins, lanceolate 15-35 mm in length. Corolla whitish. Fruit 3-5 mm diameter and ovoid in shape.
Large Nectar-Heath. *M. adpressus*.
A. Cunn. ex DC. (1838)
- *B. Leaves without papery margins.
- C. Anthers inserted at the centre of the corolla-tube. Corolla greenish-white to cream. Fruit ovoid, green to brown, wrinkled with a $\pm$ smooth apex.
Urn-Heath. *M. urceolatus* R.Br. (1810).
- *C. Anthers inserted just below the summit of the corolla-tube. Corolla reddish. Fruit globular, dark red when ripe, wrinkled when dry.
Western Nectar-Heath. *M. erubescens*
A. Cunn ex DC. (1838).



Melichrus procumbens

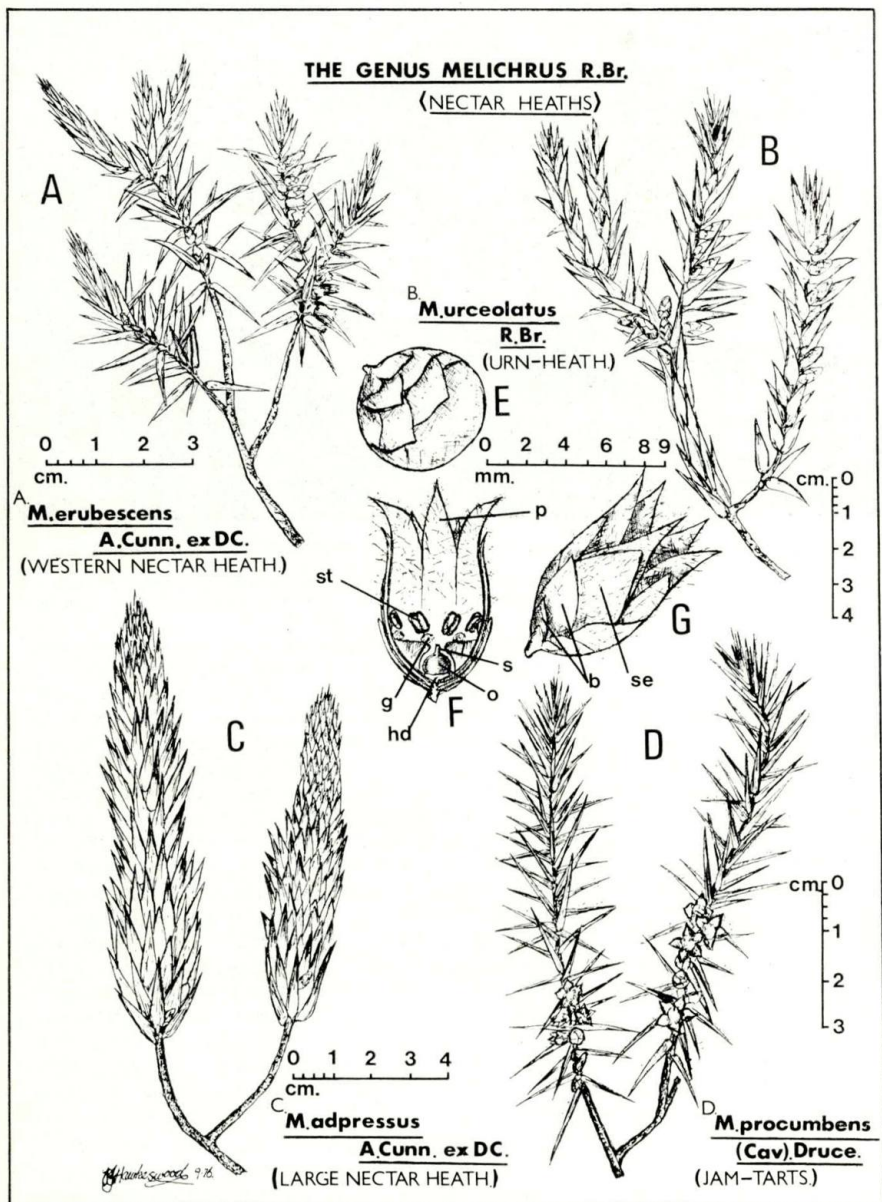
Photography by Brian Hawkeswood

A small shrub to 30 cm high with cream flowers containing large quantities of orange nectar. Note the pointed leaves with white hairs, a characteristic feature of this species.

M. procumbens, as the specific epithet suggests, is a procumbent (i.e. trailing along the ground but not taking root), little shrub to 30 cm in height. It is usually compact but plants which spread in all directions are quite common. The crowded leaves are linear-lanceolate up to about 3 cm in length, and are distinguished from other *Melichrus* species by the hairs on the leaves. The corolla is mostly cream in colour; the flowers are usually facing the ground on the underside of the branches and careful observation is needed to detect them. The vernacular name, "Jam-tarts" is given because the flowers, when fully spread open, contain a great quantity of sweet-tasting nectar, appearing like the well-known jam-tarts. The fruit is red and depressed, about 5 mm diameter. It inhabits heath on sandstones, and on sandy soils, or on granite outcrops, from just north of Brisbane to the Blue Mountains, in dry sclerophyll forest. Specimens I have examined in the two herbariums (i.e. U.N.E. and N.S.W.), and in the field, have been collected from the following places — Qld.: Gympie, Brisbane, Stanthorpe; N.S.W.: Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Armidale. Newcastle and Glenbrook. *M. procumbens* is divided into two populations (Paterson 1957), one in the New England-Brisbane region, and the other in the Port Jackson and Lower Blue Mountains region. It flowers from June to September. It does not appear to be very common.

M. adpressus, is the largest of the four species, being an erect shrub 0.3-1.5 m in height. The crowded leaves are lanceolate, 15-35 mm in length and are appressed (i.e. $\pm$ parallel to the stem). The leaves are characteristic in having margins which are papery in construction. The flowers are cream to white and are mostly hidden by the appressed condition of the leaves. The fruit is ovoid in shape and mostly 5 mm in diameter, and is distinguished by having the top half of the fruit smooth and green to brown in colour, and the lower half dark brown and wrinkled. As with all the nectar-heaths,

M. adpressus prefers sandy soils and has been found in isolated colonies around Herberton, Nth. Qld. (Paterson 1957); the main centre of location is around Brisbane and the coastal areas around Tweed Heads and just north of Coff's Harbour. It is a most attractive shrub. Flowers July-August.



KEY TO THE PLATE

A-G: Scales as Indicated: E, F, G to same scale.

A to D: species as Indicated.

E: Fruit of *M. erubescens*: corolla and several bracts removed.

F: Transverse section of a flower of *M. urceolatus*, showing corolla lobes (p), stamen (st), glands (g), style (s), ovary (o) and hypogynous disc. (hd).

G: Flower of *M. urceolatus* (bracts (b) and sepals (se)).

Drawing by Brian Hawkeswood

M. erubescens, the Western-Nectar Heath, is a straggling or erect prickly shrub up to 1.2 m in height, with leaves linear-lanceolate 8-30 mm in length with a pungent mucronate tip. The corolla is reddish in hue, and the fruit is dark red in colour about 5-8 mm diameter; it becomes wrinkled when dry. This species grows in the Coonabarabran-Gilgandra district and the Warrumbungle National Park area of the Central Western Plains and slopes of N.S.W. It flowers during the spring months.

M. urceolatus, the most common and widespread species, is an erect, prickly much-branched small or medium-sized shrub 0.2-1.2 m in height; the leaves are narrow-lanceolate, 8-25 mm in length, crowded and with a pungent mucronate tip. The flowers are coloured pale green to yellow-white. The fruit is egg-shaped (i.e. ovoid), wrinkled with a smooth apex about 5 mm diameter. It is mainly found growing in low fertile sandstone or granite soils in open forested country, from S.E. Qld., through most of eastern N.S.W. to central Victoria. It flowers from April to September.

Blombery (1967) states that propagation from seeds is difficult and it is best to try growing *Melichrus* by cuttings of young shoots or older branches. I would recommend collecting soil from around specimens which had cuttings taken from them, since the soil may contain seeds which may germinate later. Cuttings should be prepared as outlined by Blombery (1967) and (1973), and should be grown in pots or similar containers, using a sandy-loam medium or soil taken from the native habitats of the plants, with a layer of humus to add some soil nutrients. Other fertilisers may be applied later. Specimens of *M. procumbens* that I have examined growing at Glenbrook, prefer a sheltered position and a good-supply of water with adequate drainage. I have not been able to grow *Melichrus* myself, but I would like to hear from those who may have had success in growing these interesting and worthwhile plants.

Allosyncarpia

A new genus in the family Myrtaceae, by C. N. Debenham

The Editor has drawn my attention to a posthumous publication in *Austrobaileya* 1(1): 43-46 (1977), by Dr S. T. Blake. The new genus is based, *inter alia*, on partial fusion of flowers in small heads, the free part of each flower eventually splitting away after dehiscence of the single seed.

Allosyncarpia ternata is the only species in this new genus and comprises trees (up to 18m. high) of the Northern Territory (Darwin and the Gulf districts). Leaves are ternate (in 3's), the blades broad (7.5-11 x 1.2-2.8 cm), acute at apex and base, very shortly petiolate, paler and duller on the undersurface, pinnately-veined and with a distinct intramarginal vein. Flowers are in pedunculate groups of 3 forming narrow and long racemes, the whole with a dense white down of branched, septate hairs which the author notes are unique in the family. Each flower is about .4 x 4 mm. at the base, with 5 broadly ovate, ciliate, dotted and veined petals abt. 2 mm. long, and 5 broadly triangular sepals. The ovary is completely adnate with the receptacle and below the free part, 2-locular. In fruit, usually 1 locule aborts, the single seed relatively large, peltate and horizontally placed, shed before the splitting away of the free part of the receptacle. Stamens are free, longer than the petals (2-4 mm long), in several series, with versatile anthers (cells parallel, opening longitudinally). Styles are simple, the stigma small.

Placement of the new genus in the family is difficult. Because of a similar splitting away of that part of the receptacle above the ovary, a 2-locular ovary and single broad seed, its author suggests closest affinity is with *Eucalyptopsis* (2 species of large trees from Papua and the Moluccas). In this genus, petals and sepals form an operculum which is shed with the opening of the flower — hence 'Eucalypt-like'. It has less affinity with *Syncarpia*, the partial union of receptacles being the one feature in common. With *Choricarpla* it shares the 2-locular ovary and single ovule per loculus, but although flowers of *Choricarpla* are crowded in heads, they are not united.

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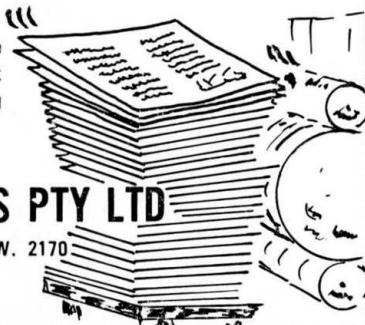
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Beaufortia sparsa

No this is not what is generally known as a "bottle-brush" plant i.e. a *Callistemon* but a closely related genus of plants *Beaufortia* from the same plant family of Myrtaceae. However most plants from this large family with flowers similar to the bottle-brush, are readily grown. *Beaufortia sparsa* above prefers more liberal, watering than is necessary for other plants in this family. The abundant flowering is the reward for extra care. Species of *Melaleuca* as mentioned on page 28 also have bottle-brush flowers or pom-pom type flowers. Why don't you grow some?