

DEDICATION TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SID JAMES

10 July 1933 – 7 December 1998



Associate Professor Sidney Herbert James had a passionate interest in the evolution of the Australian flora, and was always keen to encourage his students and other interested individuals in their pursuits in this field. It is therefore appropriate that this issue of *Nuytsia*, containing many papers by his students and associates, and with an emphasis on *Stylidium*, in which he had a particular interest, be dedicated to Sid.

Sid's outstanding contribution to science and knowledge of the south-western flora is described in detail in Hopper (1996). This dedication emphasises the degree of inspiration and encouragement Sid provided to a multitude of students and other people, many of whom are now in professional or managerial roles in academia, in herbaria and in a diversity of other positions relating to the study or conservation of the Australian biota. While most of Sid's own work was in cyto-evolution and population genetics, he had quite diverse interests and had an impressive knowledge and understanding

of the Australian biota. Although his own published contributions to plant taxonomy are limited, he had a keen eye for what constitutes a plant species and much work by his research group has assisted in delimiting taxa in many families. He conveyed to others the importance of understanding the variation existing in wild populations as being the key to sound taxonomy and an essential step in developing informed management for conservation. He also emphasised the need for scientific rigour, including collection of adequate vouchers and documentation of study populations, and this has facilitated subsequent taxonomic work such as that included in this issue of *Nuytsia*.

Sid James made a very significant contribution to plant biology and conservation. The following papers testify that the influence of this inspirational friend and colleague is continuing. His name is commemorated in the species *Laxmannia jamesii* Keighery and the newly described *Stypandra jamesii* Hopper.

Reference

- Hopper, S.D. (1996). Associate Professor S.H. James – tribute to a plant population geneticist. *In*: Hopper, S.D., Chappill, J.A., Harvey, M.S. & George, A.S. (eds) "Gondwanan Heritage: Past, Present and Future of the Western Australian Biota." pp. 53–60. (Surrey Beatty & Sons: Chipping Norton, New South Wales.)

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