

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FLORA OF THE  
FORTESCUE BOTANICAL DISTRICT - PILBARA REGION**

TAXON NOTE 1      OCTOBER 1993

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Taxon Note 1 presents information on the occurrence of 21 species from 11 genera within the Pilbara Region. Most genera are represented by only one species however, taxonomic revisions of the genera *Aristida* and *Grevillea* have resulted in a larger number of these species being represented.

The genus *Aristida* is represented by 56 species and 15 infraspecific taxa in Australia however, worldwide there are about 330 species occurring in tropical to warm temperate regions. Within Western Australia there are 16 species and one subspecies of which nine occur in north-western Australia. Seven of these have been recorded in the Pilbara region.

The mangrove genus *Avicennia* is represented by eight species world wide all of which occur predominantly in tropical - subtropical regions. Three species occur in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Eastern Pacific region or New World. The remaining five species occur in the Indo - Western Pacific region or Old World. Australia has five species of *Avicennia*, including three varieties under the taxon *A. marina*. Only one species, *A. marina*, has been recorded in Western Australia where it is represented by two varieties, one of which extends into the Pilbara Region.

The carnivorous plant genus *Byblis* is represented by two species in Australia and one infraspecific taxon. One species *B. gigantea*, is confined to south-western Australia while the other, *B. liniflora*, occurs across the top of the continent and into Irian Jaya. Within *B. liniflora* a new subspecies has recently been recognised which extends into the northern bounds of the Pilbara region.

The genus *Carissa* is represented by 30 - 35 taxa in Africa, India, New Guinea and Australia. In Australia four species are currently recognised two of which occur in Western Australia. Only one of these is found in the Pilbara region.

The proteaceous genus *Grevillea* contains 253 species which occur in Australia, New Guinea, New Caledonia and Indonesia. In Australia there are 248 species of which 246 are endemic. This genus is the largest in the Proteaceae family and represents one of the largest genera in any family in the Australasian region. In Western Australia there are 164 species, 142 of which are endemic. In the north west there are 13 species, five of which occur in the Pilbara Region.

The genus *Gymnanthera* is represented by two species in Australia both of which occur in Western Australia. The genus is represented by one species in the Pilbara region.

*Pentalepis* is the genus resurrected for two Australian species hitherto included in *Chrysogonum*. Both species occur in Western Australia with only one being recorded in the Pilbara region. A possible third taxon exists, which is endemic to the Lennard River Gorge area in the Kimberleys.

Lippia, the grass of many lawns in the coastal Pilbara belongs to the genus *Phylla*. This genus is represented by approximately 11 species and several infraspecific taxa throughout tropical, subtropical and temperate regions of the world. In Australia there are two species which were introduced and have become naturalised. One of these naturalised species occurs in the Pilbara.

*Sarcostemma* has both an Old and New World distribution with several dozen species being recognised. Within Australia there are three species and two infraspecific taxa, both of which occur under the species *S. viminalis*. Two of the species and both infraspecific taxa have been recorded in Western Australia. Two taxa are known from north-western Australia with one currently being found in the Pilbara Region.

Sorghum grass is found throughout tropical and subtropical parts of the Old World where the genus is represented by 31 species. In Australia there are 17 species and one variety currently recognised for the genus *Sorghum*, all of which, with the exception of three species, are endemic. Eight species occur in Western Australia, three of which occur in the north west. One species occurs in the Pilbara region.

Camel Bush, *Trichodesma zeylanicum*, is the only Australian representative of this genus of 35 species which generally occur in tropical and subtropical regions of Africa and Asia. In Australia there are currently three infraspecific taxa recognised for this one species, all of which occur in Western Australia. In the Pilbara two of the infraspecific taxa are present. Details on the newest recognised variety are presented in this contribution.

Important nomenclatural changes to note are;

- plants identified as *Grevillea wickhamii* in the Pilbara region represent the subspecies 'aprica'. Typical *G. wickhamii* is endemic to the Kimberleys.
- the change in name of *Wrightia cunninghamii* to *Gymnanthera cunninghamii*.
- the resurrection of the generic name *Pentalepis* which is re-applied to species now included under the genus *Chrysogonum*.
- the reduction of *Sarcostemma australe* to subspecific status under *S. viminalis*.
- the formal recognition and identification (subsp. *grandiflorum*) of the large white flowered camel bush as a subspecies of typical *Trichodesma zeylanicum*.

If you have any questions or require further information on any of the species presented in this contribution please do not hesitate to contact me.

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TAXON NOTE 1

OCTOBER 1993

**Aristida**

**contorta**

**Poaceae**

*Authority :* F. Muell.

*Reference :* Trans. & Proc. Vict. Inst. Advancem. Sci. 1:44 (1855)

*Infra authority :*

*Infra reference :*

*Illustration :* Wheeler, D.J.B., Jacobs, S.W.L. & Norton, B.E. (1990) Grasses of New South Wales. fig, 1A.

*Previous Name :* *Aristida arenaria*

*Introduced/Naturalised:*

*Common Name :* Wind grass

*Aboriginal Name :*

*Description :* Annual or perennial compactly tufted grass; culms to 44 cm, nodes 2-4, leaf blades to 10 cm; inflorescence to 26 x 9 cm, lower glume to 14.2 mm & 1-nerved, lemma to 7 mm & shorter than glume, column distinct to 26 mm; awns equal or subequal, grain terete.

*Habitat :* Growing in Eucalyptus-Acacia (mulga) woodlands on desert red earths, sandy & alluvial soils.

*Distribution :* Found in arid & semi-arid regions of all mainland states. In Western Australia generally absent from the Kimberleys and central deserts east of Newman.

*1: 250 000 map sheet*

*Flowering Period*

Dampier

Marble bar

Mount Bruce

Newman

Port Hedland

Pyramid

Robertson

Roy Hill

Yarraloola

Year round

*Comments :* An extremely variable taxon especially in habitat preference which is dependant on moisture availability. Closely related to *A. holathera* but most obvious difference is brownish colour of lemma as opposed to purplish in *A. holathera*.

*Reference:* Simon, B.K. (1992) A revision of the genus *Aristida* (Poaceae) in Australia. Aust. Syst. Bot. 5(2), 129-226.

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**Aristida**                      **exserta**                                      **Poaceae**

*Authority :* S.T. Blake

*Reference :* Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld. 51:172, t.5, fig 6-9 (1940)

*Infra authority :*

*Infra reference :*

*Illustration :* Blake, S.T. (1940) Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld. 51: fig 6-9.

*Previous Name :*

*Introduced/Naturalised:*

*Common Name :*

*Aboriginal Name :*

*Description :* Perennial compactly tufted grass, culms to 75 cm, strongly branched; leaf blades to 8 cm x 0.5 mm; inflorescence 15 x 1 cm, glumes inverse or normal, lower glume to 10 mm, 3-nerved, lemma to 11mm, lemma groove smooth, awn to 10 mm, unequal; grain furrowed

*Habitat :* Occuring on rocky outcrops and in mountain ranges.

*Distribution :* Mainly distributed throughout tropical areas of the Northern Territory and Queensland, excluding Cape York Peninsula. Extending into Western Australian around Kununurra with a disjunct population in the Pilbara.

*1: 250 000 map sheet*  
Marble bar

*Flowering Period*  
June

*Comments :*

*Reference:* Simon, B.K. (1992) A revision of the genus *Aristida* (Poaceae) in Australia. Aust. Syst. Bot. 5(2), 129-226.

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**Aristida**                      **holathera**                                      **Poaceae**

*Authority :* Domin

*Reference :* Biblioth. Bot. 85: 340, t. 13. figs 18, 19 (1915)

**var. holathera**

*Infra authority :*

*Infra reference :*

*Illustration :* Jessop, J.P. & Toelken, H.R. (1986) Flora of South Australia. 4: figs 853C & 854E.

*Previous Name :* *Aristida muelleri*

*Introduced/Naturalised:*

*Aboriginal Name :*



*Habitat* : Growing in sandy and alluvial soils and often the dominant grass along extensive river banks. In both Eucalyptus and Melaleuca woodlands.

*Distribution* : Found north of Lat 20 S generally however a few isolated records from further south in north-western Australian and the Northern Territory.

*1: 250 000 map sheet*  
Port Hedland  
Roebourne

*Flowering Period*  
July  
August

*Comments* : Differs from *A. contorta* in having larger spikelet characteristics, especially in the length and thickness of the column.

*Reference*: Simon, B.K., (1992) A revision of the genus *Aristida* (Poaceae) in Australia. *Aust Syst. Bot.* 5(2), 129-226.

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***Aristida***                      ***inaequiglumis***                      **Poaceae**

*Authority* : Domin

*Reference* : Biblioth. Bot. 85: 347 (1915)

*Infra authority* :

*Infra reference* :

*Illustration* : Petheram, R.J. & Kok, B. (1983) Pl. Kimb. Reg. W. Aust. fig 7.

*Previous Name* :

*Introduced/Naturalised*:

*Common Name* : Feathertop Threeawn

*Aboriginal Name* :

*Description* : Perennial loosely tufted grass, culms to 155 cm nodes 1; leaf blades to 30 cm x 4.5 mm; inflorescence 40 x 4 cm, glumes inverse, lower glume to 18.5 mm, 1-nerved, lemma to 9 mm, shorter than glumes, awn subequal or unequal to 46 mm, grain furrowed to 7 mm

*Habitat* : Growing in Acacia, Callitris, Eucalyptus and *Astrebla* communities on red earths, sands and alluvial soils.

*Distribution* : Growing in the northern physiogeographic region of Australia in Queensland, Northern Territory & Western Australia. In Western Australia found throughout the Kimberleys & extending into the Pilbara & central deserts.

*1: 250 000 map sheet*  
Port Hedland  
Robertson  
Roebourne

*Flowering Period*  
Year round

*Comments* : Closely allied to *A. pruinosa*, a tropical Australian taxon, from which it differs most significantly in having leaf blades which curl at maturity & a less robust habit.

*Reference*: Simon, B.K. (1992) A revision of the genus *Aristida* (Poaceae) in Australia. *Aust. Syst. Bot.* 5(2),

129-226.

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**Aristida**                      **latifolia**                      **Poaceae**

*Authority :*        Domin

*Reference :*        Biblioth. Bot. 85: 339, t. 13, figs 13, 14 (1915)

*Infra authority :*

*Infra reference :*

*Illustration :*    Petheram, R.J. & Kok, B. (1983) Pl. Kimb. Reg. W. Aust. fig 8.

*Previous Name :*    *Aristida latifolia* var. *minor*

*Introduced/Naturalised:*

*Common Name :*    Feathertop Wiregrass

*Aboriginal Name :*

*Description :*    Perennial loosely tufted grass, culms to 131 cm tall; leaf blade to 70 cm x 4.5 mm; inflorescence to 69 x 3.5 cm, glumes equal, lower glume to 13 mm, 1-nerved, lemma to 11 mm, shorter than glumes, column poorly developed to 9 mm, awns unequal to 50 mm.

*Habitat :*        Growing in a variety of plant associations usually dominated by *Acacia* spp, *Melaleuca* spp, *Eucalyptus* spp & *Eremophila* spp. Usually on cracking clays & red earths however, also on sandy and alluvial soils.

*Distribution :*    In all mainland states except Victoria. Mostly a tropical distribution. In Western Australia in the eastern Kimberleys, western Pilbara and isolated occurrences throughout the Ashburton, Gascoyne and Murchison Regions.

*I: 250 000 map sheet*

Port Hedland

Pyramid

*Flowering Period*

Year round

*Comments :*     A major problem species in the pastoral industry of tropical Australia, especially on the Mitchell grass plain.

*Reference:*        Simon, B.K. (1992) A revision of the genus *Aristida* (Poaceae) in Australia. *Aust. Syst. Bot.* 5(2), 129-226.

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**Aristida**                      **nitidula**                      **Poaceae**

*Authority :*        (Henrard) S.T. Blake ex J. Black

*Reference :*        Fl. South Aust. 1:83 (1943)

*Infra authority :*

*Infra reference :*

*Illustration :* Jessop, J.P. & Toelken, H.R. (1986) 4: fig 854J.

*Previous Name :* *Aristida echinata* var. *nitidula*

*Introduced/Naturalised:*

*Common Name :*

*Aboriginal Name :*

*Description :* Perennial, compactly tufted grass, culms to 82 cm long; leaf blades to 17 cm x 1 mm; inflorescence 28 x 2 cm, glumes equal, lower glume to 10.6 mm, 1-nerved, lemma to 10 mm equal to glumes, awns straight to 27 mm; grain terete to 6 mm.

*Habitat :* Grow in Acacia, especially mulga, communities on rocky and sandy soils.

*Distribution :* Occurring in all mainland states except Victoria. Three areas identified as main population distribution: - Northern Territory-South Australia, central Queensland, New South Wales-South Australia. In Western Australia several scattered occurrences.

*I: 250 000 map sheet*  
Dampier

*Flowering Period*  
Year round

*Comments :* Very similar to *A. arida* except the glumes are subequal.

*Reference:* Simon, B.K. (1992) A revision of the genus *Aristida* (Poaceae) in Australia. *Aust. Syst. Bot.* 5(2), 129-226.

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## ***Avicennia marina***

**Avicenniaceae**

*Authority :* (Forsk.) Vierh.

*Reference :* Denkschr. Akad. Wiss. Wien Math.-Nat. 71:435 (1907)

### **var. *marina***

*Infra authority :*

*Infra reference :*

*Illustration :* Duke, N.C. (1991) *Aust. Syst. Bot.* 4(2), pg 318, fig 9.

*Previous Name :* *Avicennia marina* var. *acutissima*

*Introduced/Naturalised:*

*Common Name :* White Mangrove

*Aboriginal Name :*

*Description :* Tree or shrub to 10 m; smooth green grey bark when wet, chalky white when dry; leaf ovate-elliptic to 84 x 27 cm; flowers scented to 8 mm, outer surface of calyx lobes hairy above base, style erect, stigma equal to anthers, ovary pubescent; fruit to 23 mm.

*Habitat :* This taxon has a physiological tolerance to salinity. Show greatest preference for median intertidal positions however, grows in monospecific stands across entire intertidal profile. Occupies offshore reefal lagoons & sandy or rocky sheltered sites.

*Distribution :* Occuring throughout the Indo-Asia Region & eastern Africa. In Australia restricted to the west



coast from Bunbury to Broome. Northern limit of distribution no precise as considerable overlap with var. eucalyptifolia.

*1: 250 000 map sheet*  
Dampier  
Port Hedland  
Roebourne

*Flowering Period*  
October  
November

*Comments :* Time of flowering and propogule maturation varies considerably with latitude although constant within a site. Exhibits wide physiological tolerance to salinity, intertidal position and temperature. Is shade intolerant and propogules predated by crabs

*Reference:* Duke, N.C. (1991) A systematic revision of the Mangrove genus *Avicennia* (Avicenniaceae) in Australasia. *Aust. Syst. Bot.* 4(2) 299-324.

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***Byblis***                      ***liniflora***                      **Byblidaceae**                      **New taxon**

*Authority :* Salisb.

*Reference :* Parad. Londin. 2:tab. 95 (1808)

**subsp. *occidentalis***

*Infra authority :* Conran & Lowrie

*Infra reference :* Aust. Syst. Bot. 6(2):176 (1993)

*Illustration :* Conran, J.G. & Lowrie A. (1993) *Aust. Syst. Bot.* 6(2), pg 178.

*Previous Name :*

*Introduced/Naturalised:*

*Common Name :*

*Aboriginal Name :*

*Description :* Annual herb, woody erect stem covered with numerous viscid stalked insectivorous glandular hairs to 55 cm tall; leaves linear to 9 cm with glandular hairs; flowers numerous, single axillary, petals pink to cerise-mauve, pale yellow abaxially, to 15 mm.

*Habitat :* Generally growing in seasonally wet depressions along drainage lines and on flood out areas.

*Distribution :* Occuring in the northern Western Australian and the Northern Territory. In Western Australia this taxon is comon in the Kimberleys extending down to the Port Hedland area & into the Great Sandy Desert.

*1: 250 000 map sheet*  
Port Hedland

*Flowering Period*  
June

*Comments :* Differs from typical *B. liniflora* in stature being larger, flowers being more numerous and

concentrated along stem & in colouration. Plants survive the dry season as dormant seeds. Great Sandy Desert specimens are generally very small to 8 cm.

*Reference:* Conran, J.G. & Lowrie A. (1993) *Byblis liniflora* subsp. *occidentalis* (Byblidaceae): a new subspecies from north-Western Australia. *Aust. Syst. Bot.* 6(2), 175-79.

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***Carissa lanceolata* Apocynaceae**

*Authority:* R. Br.

*Reference:* Prodr. 468 (1810)

*Infra authority:*

*Infra reference:*

*Illustration:* Wheeler, J.R. (1992) *Flora of the Kimberley Region*. pg 702.

*Previous Name:* *Carissa brownii* var. *lanceolata*

*Introduced/Naturalised:*

*Common Name:* Conkerberry

*Aboriginal Name:* Managudji

*Description:* Sprawling woody shrub to 2.5 m, white latex; axillary spines to 30 mm; leaves petiolate, lanceolate to ovate to 50 x 14 mm; cyme to 6 mm, flowers 11 x 4 mm, scented, corolla white, stamens inserted; fruit oblong, 8 x 7 mm diameter, black purple when ripe.

*Habitat:* Grows in open woodlands on a variety of soils, often in disturbed areas with little vegetation cover.

*Distribution:* Widely distributed in arid & semi arid Australia being recorded in Western Australian, Queensland and the Northern Territory.

*1: 250 000 map sheet*

*Flowering Period*

Dampier  
Port Hedland  
Yarrie

*Comments:* This taxon has tasty edible fruits and is used by aborigines for various medical purposes such as the treatment of rheumatism, influenza and as a pain killer. In Queensland this taxon regarded as a woody weed in agricultural areas.

*Reference:* Forster, P.I. (1992) A taxonomic revision of *Carissa* (Apocynaceae) in Australia. *Aust. Syst. Bot.* 5(5), 581-91.

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***Grevillea berryana* Proteaceae**

*Authority :* Ewart et White

*Reference :* Proc. Roy. Soc. Victoria. 22, 14-15, Tab.8 (1909)

*Infra authority :*

*Infra reference :*

*Illustration :* McGillivray (1993) *Grevillea*, Proteaceae, a taxonomic revision. pg 131.

*Previous Name :*

*Introduced/Naturalised:*

*Common Name :* Christmas Tree *Grevillea*

*Aboriginal Name :*

*Description :* Small tree or shrub up to 7 m tall, leaves irregular up to 20 cm long, inflorescence terminal and up to 10 cm long, flowers pale cream to yellow with a sweet scent.

*Habitat :* In open *Acacia* woodlands, usually *Mulga*, or in open situations over *Triodia* spp. in lateritic gravelly red loamy soils.

*Distribution :* Restricted to Western Australia being widely distributed in the Eremaean Botanical Province from the Fortescue/Rudall River area to Agnew.

*I: 250 000 map sheet*

Nullagine  
Yarraloola

*Flowering Period*

January  
December

*Comments :* Species is named after Pro. R.J.A. Berry (1867-1962), Professor of Anatomy at the University of Melbourne.

*Reference:* McGillivray D.J. (1993) *Grevillea*, Proteaceae, a taxonomic revision. Melbourne University Press.

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## ***Grevillea***

## ***eriostachya***

## **Proteaceae**

*Authority :* Lindl.

*Reference :* Sketch, Veg. Swan River Col. 36 (1840)

### **subsp. *eriostachya***

*Infra authority :*

*Infra reference :*

*Illustration :* A.S. George (1984) An introduction to the Proteaceae of Western Australia. pg 58.

*Previous Name :*

*Introduced/Naturalised:*

*Common Name :*

*Aboriginal Name :*

*Description :* Open shrub or small tree, ascending simple and entire leaves, inflorescence terminal or subterminal axillary, flowers bright yellow to orange.

*Habitat* : In Eucalyptus-Acacia-Triodia associations, usually in heath on sandhills or in sandy situations.

*Distribution* : Widespread in Western Australia from the central wheatbelt to northern edge of the Great Sandy Desert. Also in south-western Northern Territory and north west South Australia.

*1: 250 000 map sheet*

Wyloo  
Yanrey

*Flowering Period*

*Comments* : Most distinguishing feature from subspecies *excelsior* is the inflorescence which is partially enclosed within foliage. Name refers to the densely hairy inflorescence and woolly aspect.

*Reference*: McGillivray D.J. (1993) *Grevillea*, Proteaceae, a taxonomic revision. Melbourne University Press.

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***Grevillea*                      *pyramidalis*                      Proteaceae**

*Authority* : A. Cunn. ex R. Br.

*Reference* : Prod. Suppl. 25 (1830)

*Infra authority* :

*Infra reference* :

*Illustration* : McGillivray, D.J. (1993) *Grevillea*, Proteaceae, a taxonomic revision. pg 146.

*Previous Name* : *G. leucadendron*

*Introduced/Naturalised*:

*Common Name* : Caustic Tree

*Aboriginal Name* :

*Description* : Slender erect shrub or small tree to 6 m, thick corky bark which is fissured, leaves clustered towards terminal end of branch & ascending, up to 30 cm long & simple, inflorescence terminal & up to 42 cm, flowers scented & cream - white or yellow.

*Habitat* : In open eucalyptus woodlands and savannah and in *Triodia* communities over sandy soils on sandstone, limestone and bauxite.

*Distribution* : Found in north western Australia from the Hamersley Ranges to the Eastern Kimberley. Also in the Northern Territory around Timber Creek.

*1: 250 000 map sheet*

Mount Bruce  
Nullagine  
Roy Hill

*Flowering Period*

August  
July  
June  
May

*Comments* : Three distinct forms based on leaf shape have been recognised - Broad-lobed form (a), Narrow-lobed form (b) & Long-leaved form (c). The Narrow-lobed type is the only form in the Pilbara. Known to resprouting from lateral roots after fire.

Reference: McGillivray D.J. (1993) *Grevillea*, Proteaceae, a taxonomic revision. Melbourne University Press.

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***Grevillea stenobotrya*** Proteaceae

Authority: F. Muell.

Reference: *Fragm. Phyt. Austral.* 9:3 (1875)

Infra authority:

Infra reference:

Illustration: McGillivray D.J. (1993) *Grevillea*, Proteaceae, a taxonomic revision, pg 189

Previous Name: *Grevillea simulans*

Introduced/Naturalised:

Common Name:

Aboriginal Name:

Description: Erect & sometimes spreading shrub or small tree with open habit to 6 m; stout branches arising from base; leaves ascending, simple and linear to 28 cm; inflorescence terminal, to 25 cm with 5-12 spreading branches, creamy white - pale yellow.

Habitat: In sandhill country of scrub and *Triodia* communities usually near the crest of dunes.

Distribution: Discontinuous trans-continental distribution from south-west Queensland & north-western New South Wales to Exmouth.

1: 250 000 map sheet

Yanrey  
Yarraloola

Flowering Period

June  
July

Comments: The species name refers to the narrow inflorescences however, this character does not always hold true.

Reference: McGillivray D.J. (1993) *Grevillea*, Proteaceae, a taxonomic revision. Melbourne University Press.

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***Grevillea wickhamii*** Proteaceae New taxon

Authority: Meisn.

Reference: *Prod.* 14:380 (1856)

**subsp. *aprica***

Infra authority: McGillivray

Infra reference: *New names Grevillea*: 16 (1986).

*Illustration* : McGillivray, D.J., (1993) *Grevillea*, Proteaceae, a taxonomic revision. 207.

*Previous Name* : *Grevillea agrifolia*

*Introduced/Naturalised:*

*Common Name* :

*Aboriginal Name* :

*Description* : Erect to sometimes spreading shrub to 4.5 m; ovate leaves to 9 cm with acute apex, leaf margins flat & occasionally undulate; inflorescence axillary usually to 10 cm long; flowers red (rarely yellow) throughout, style & pollen presenter yellow.

*Habitat* : Generally in rocky situations in sandstone, ironstone, limestone or granite with red sand in open woodlands and shrubby *Triodia* communities.

*Distribution* : Widespread in Western Australia and the Northern Territory north of Lat. 26 S. Also in north-western Queensland.

*I: 250 000 map sheet*

*Flowering Period*

Marble bar

June

Mount Bruce

July

Pyramid

May

*Comments* : This taxon differs from typical *G. wickhamii* in its narrower leaf, less frequent lateral leaf veins, shorter & narrower inflorescences and smaller fruits with are laterally compressed & > 15 mm long. Typical *G. wickhamii* is restricted to the Kimberleys.

*Reference*: McGillivray D.J. (1993) *Grevillea*, Proteaceae, a taxonomic revision. Melbourne University Press.

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***Gymnanthera cunninghamii***

Asclepiadaceae

Name change

*Authority* : (Benth.) P. Forster

*Reference* : Aust. Syst. Bot. 4(3):568 (1991)

*Infra authority* :

*Infra reference* :

*Illustration* : Wilson, K.L. (1987) A new species of *Gymnanthera* (Periplocaceae) in Australia. J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 10, pg 114, 116.

*Previous Name* : *Wrightia cunninghamii*

*Introduced/Naturalised:*

*Common Name* :

*Aboriginal Name* :

*Description* : Erect woody shrub to 1.5 m; conical stems to 5 mm; leaves lanceolate to 11.5 x 2 cm, 8-10 prominent secondary veins; Cymes to 3 cm long with 1-4 flowers on peduncles to 12 mm; flowers to 15 mm long, corolla cream to green-yellow; seeds to 20 mm long.

*Habitat* : On banks or surrounding areas of permanent or semi permanent water in sandy soil.

*Distribution* : Disjunct distribution throughout central Australia with populations in Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia. In Western Australia found near Woodstock, Karratha and Minilya.

*I: 250 000 map sheet*  
Dampier  
Marble bar

*Flowering Period*  
Year round

*Comments* : The species was also described as *Gymnanthera fruticosa* by K.L. Wilson in J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 10:113 (1987). The Type collection was made from Enderby Island in the Dampier Archipelago.

*Reference*: Forster, P.I. (1991) A taxonomic revision of *Gymnanthera* R. Br. (Asclepiadaceae: Periplocoideae) in Australia. Aust. Syst. Bot. 4(3) 563-9

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***Pentalepis trichodesmoides*** Asteraceae Name change

*Authority* : F. Muell.

*Reference* : Endin. New Philos. J. 17:231 (1863)

*Infra authority* :

*Infra reference* :

*Illustration* : Karis, P.O., Anderberg, A.A. & Nordenstan B. (1993) Aust. Syst. Bot. 6(2) pg 151, fig 1.

*Previous Name* : *Chrysogonum trichodesmoides*

*Introduced/Naturalised*:

*Common Name* :

*Aboriginal Name* :

*Description* : Much branched shrub to 1 m, white cracking cortex & strigose branches; leaves brittle, 80 x 20 mm narrow lanceolate to ovate, 3 veined & shiny; inflorescences in terminal panicles, ray florets 5 & yellow, disk florets ca 15, achenes dark brown to 6 mm.

*Habitat* : On stony ground in sand and loam near watercourses and also in range country and offshore islands.

*Distribution* : Restricted to northern Western Australia where it occurs in the Hamersley Ranges north to the Pilbara coast and on adjacent offshore islands. Also in the Kimberleys from near Fitzroy Crossing to the Bungle Bungles.

*I: 250 000 map sheet*  
Mount Bruce  
Barrow Island  
Port Hedland  
Yarraloola

*Flowering Period*  
September  
August  
July

*Comments* : Fruiting occurs from July - November.

*Reference*: Karis, P.O., Anderberg, A.A. & Nordenstan B. (1993) Resurrection and systematic position of *Pentalepis* F. Muell. (Asteraceae-Heliantheae). Aust. Syst. Bot. 6(2) 149-53.

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**Phylla**                      **nodiflora**                                      **Verbenaceae**

*Authority* : (L.) E. Greene

*Reference* : Pittonia 4:46 (1899)

**subsp. nodiflora**

*Infra authority* :

*Infra reference* :

*Illustration* : Munir, A.A. (1993) J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 15(2), pg 116.

*Previous Name* : *Lippia nodiflora*

*Introduced/Naturalised*: Naturalized

*Common Name* : Lippia

*Aboriginal Name* :

*Description* : A prostrate creeping herb with subsessile leaves to 50 mm with antrorse teeth; Inflorescence solitary, cylindrical to 25 mm and extending beyond leaves; flowers usually white or purplish white.

*Habitat* : Growing in moist or wet soils in field, lawns, clearings, savannah, on beaches and in creek beds. In many different types of communtiy types.

*Distribution* : Widely distributed throught the subtropical and tropical portions of both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. In Australian found in all mainland states except SA. In WA from Safety Bay to Wyndham.

*I*: 250 000 map sheet  
Pyramid

*Flowering Period*  
October

*Comments* : This species has a remarkable geographic range being found in the subtropical & tropical parts of all continents. Probably introduced to Australia during the last century and is now naturalised. Considerable variation exists in the species.

*Reference*: Munir, A.A. (1993) Verbenaceae: Phylla. J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 15(2) 114-121

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**Sarcostemma**                      **viminale**                                      **Asclepiadaceae**                      **Name change**

*Authority* : (L.) R. Br.

*Reference* : Prod. 463 (1810)

**subsp. australe**

*Infra authority* : (R. Br.) P. Forster

*Infra reference* : Aust. Syst. Bot. 5:64 (1992)

*Illustration* : Forster, P.I. (1992) Aust. Syst. Bot. 5(1), pg 65



*Previous Name* : *Sarcostemma australe*

*Common Name* : Caustic Vine

*Aboriginal Name* :

*Description* : Succulent subshrub or scrambler with white latex sap, stems silver-green, erect or sprawling, not twining or forming a woody liane; glabrous, flower bearing stems 3-5 mm diameter; flowers to 10 mm diameter on pedicels to 10 mm, cream to creamy green.

*Habitat* : Grows in arid areas often on red lateritic or ironstone soils in association with *Acacia* species. In both woodlands and shrub communities.

*Distribution* : Restricted to Australia where it occurs in all mainland states except Victoria. An arid zone species.

1: 250 000 map sheet

*Flowering Period*  
October

*Comments* : Typical 'viminalis' does not occur in Australia being found in southern Africa. This taxon is highly variable. In Australia there are two subspecies which are distinguished by their vegetative characteristics.

*Reference*: Forster, P.I. (1992) A taxonomic revision of *Sarcostemma* R.Br. subgenus *Sarcostemma* (Asclepiadaceae: Asclepiadeae) in Australia. *Aust. Syst. Bot.* 5(1) 53-70.

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## ***Sorghum***

## ***timorense***

## **Poaceae**

*Authority* : (Kunth) Buse

*Reference* : De Vriese Pl. Ind. Bat. Orient. 103 (1857)

*Infra authority* :

*Infra reference* :

*Illustration* : Lazarides, M, Hacker, J.B. & Andrew M.H. (1991) *Aust. Syst. Bot.* 4(4) pg 612, fig. 2a-c..

*Previous Name* : *Sorghum australiense*

*Introduced/Naturalised*:

*Common Name* :

*Aboriginal Name* :

*Description* : Annual grass to 30 cm, green-pruinose, culms to 13 mm diameter; leaf blades to 60 x 1 cm, filiform towards apex; panicle to 40 cm, branches 2-11 cm simple, raceme to 6 cm 2-10 jointed, spikelets sessile to 7 mm, glumes 8-9 nerved, anthers orange-yellow.

*Habitat* : Growing consistently on cracking clay soils, calcareous clayey loams and alluvial or basaltic soils generally on river floodout areas.

*Distribution* : Distributed in Western Australian, Northern Territory and Queensland and extending into Timor and probably other islands of Indonesia.

*1: 250 000 map sheet*  
Dampier

*Flowering Period*  
August

*Comments :* A very habitat specific taxon generally restricted to heavy textured soils. Known to exhibit considerable polyploidy.

*Reference:* Lazarides, M, Hacker, J.B. & Andrew M.H. (1991) Taxonomy, cytology & ecology of indigenous Australian sorghums (Sorghum Moench: Andropogoneae: Poaceae). Aust. Syst. Bot. 4(4) 591-635.

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**Trichodesma zeylanicum**

**Boraginaceae**

**New taxon**

*Authority :* (Burm.f.) R. Br.

*Reference :* Prod. 496 (1810)

**var. grandiflorum**

*Infra authority :* Randell

*Infra reference :* J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 15(2):95 (1993)

*Illustration :* Randell, B. (1993) J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 15(2), pg 96.

*Previous Name :*

*Introduced/Naturalised:*

*Common Name :* White Camel Bush

*Aboriginal Name :*

*Description :* Shrub to 2 m with linear to lanceolate leaves to 12 cm; inflorescence paired and unbranched; calyx lobes to 20 mm; corolla to 25 mm & usually white or rarely blue.

*Habitat :* Growing usually in sandy situations.

*Distribution :* Of localised & dispersed occurrence from Carnarvon in Western Australia to Docker River in the Northern Territory.

*1: 250 000 map sheet*

*Flowering Period*

*Comments :* This taxon has been recognised for some time differing from typical 'zeylanicum' in its more robust habit and usually white, rarely blue, campanulate flowers. The flowers are usually larger than 'zeylanicum' hence its species name.

*Reference:* Randell, B.R. (1993) New taxa and combinations in the Boraginaceae. J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 15(2):95-97.

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