

FLORA OF AUSTRALIA

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Cheyniana Rye

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Options

– Rye, B.L. (2 June 2009), A reduced circumscription of Balaustion and description of the new genus *Cheyniana* (Myrtaceae : Chamelaucieae). *Nuytsia* 19(1): 141-143

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Nomenclature

Rye, B.L. (2 June 2009), A reduced circumscription of Balaustion and description of the new genus *Cheyniana* (Myrtaceae : Chamelaucieae). *Nuytsia* 19(1): 141-143 ()

Etymology

Named in honour of George McCartney Cheyne (1790–1869) and his wife Grizzel Melville Cheyne (1797–1871), pioneer settlers at Cape Riche, who assisted early collectors such as James Drummond.

Description

Shrubs usually low and spreading, glabrous. Leaves opposite, decussate, small, shortly petiolate. Peduncles moderately long, 1-flowered. Bracteoles opposite, persistent at anthesis. Pedicels absent or shorter than the peduncles. Flowers actinomorphic. Hypanthium \pm urceolate, partially adnate to the ovary, with the free part flared. Sepals 5, much shorter than the petals, persistent in fruit. Petals 5, widely spreading in flower, broadly obovate, 4.5–7 mm long, brightly coloured, shed in fruit; antipetalous colleters minute or absent. Staminodes absent. Stamens inflexed in bud, 30–60, in 1 or 2 series, not geniculate, much shorter than to about as long as the petals, the outer ones or those opposite petals the longest. Filaments free, filiform, \pm terete, with prominent glands. Anthers appearing basifixed, small, \pm globular to broadly reniform, dehiscent by two basally divergent to \pm transverse short slits or pores; connective gland inconspicuous or possibly absent. Ovary inferior but summit with a central dome, 2- or 3-locular; placentas sessile, shortly cylindrical to conic; ovules 10–

23 per loculus, arranged radially. Style base deeply inset. Fruits largely inferior, indehiscent, very thick-walled, hard, \pm globular, few-seeded. Seeds (where known) somewhat faceted, 1.4–1.7 mm long, with a small hilum; testa crustaceous.

Diagnostic Features

Fruits indehiscent, 2- or 3-locular, very thick-walled, hard, \pm globular. Stamens 30–60, with a narrow, glandular-tuberculate filament. Petals 4.5–7 mm long, brightly coloured.

Chromosome Numbers

Unknown.

Biostatus

Native.

Distribution

A genus of 2 species from the southwest of Western Australia.

Ecology

The large, brightly coloured flowers are either bird-pollinated or likely to attract large insects. Dispersal of the seeds might be primarily by ingestion as the very thick-walled, hard, globular, indehiscent fruits would not be readily dispersed by other means, although the bristly fruits of one of the two species might occasionally be dispersed in fur or feathers.

Nomenclature and Typification

Cheyniana Rye, *Nuytsia* 19(1): 141–143 (2009). Type: *Cheyniana microphylla* (C.A.Gardner) Rye.

Taxonomic Notes

The only other genus of tribe Chamelaucieae known to have hard, thick-walled, indehiscent, multi-locular fruits is *Enekbatus*, a case of convergent evolution as that genus belongs to a different subtribe (Rye *et al.* 2020). In *Cheyniana*, the connective gland does not extend beyond the thecae and is not evident from the external structure of the reduced anther.

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Published 4 January 2023.

Taxonomy

- Kingdom: Plantae  ()
- Phylum: Charophyta
- Class: Equisetopsida
- Subclass: Magnoliidae
- Superorder: Rosanae  ()
- Order: Myrtales  ()
- Family: Myrtaceae (/opus/foa/profile/Myrtaceae)  ()
- Genus: Cheyniana (/opus/foa/profile/Cheyniana)  ()



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Australian Plant Image Index

Cheyniana microphylla by Fagg, M., 1983-09 (© Fagg, M.)

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Last updated: Charlotte Ely; Mar 29, 2022 10:18 Status:
Partial

Author - B.L. Rye

Editor - J.A. Wege

Contributor - C.J. Ely provided technical support. P.G. Kodela provided editorial assistance.

Cite this profile as: B.L. Rye. Cheyniana, in J.A. Wege (ed.), Flora of Australia. Australian Biological Resources Study, Department of Climate Change, the Environment and Water: Canberra.

<https://profiles.ala.org.au/opus/foa/profile/Cheyniana> [Date Accessed: 27 February 2023]

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ISSN 2207-7820

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