

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Plant Identification Unit

The flora of WA is extremely rich and there are many species still to be described, so that correctly naming plants can be difficult, even for experts. The Plant Identification Unit was set up as a pilot scheme in 1966. The CALM Herbarium's Plant Identification Unit is largely staffed by volunteers who have developed skills in this area and work with the Identification Botanist to provide a valuable service to Regional Herbarium groups.

We are interested, please

- ☐ Send us more information
☐ Put us on your mailing list

GROUP NAME _____

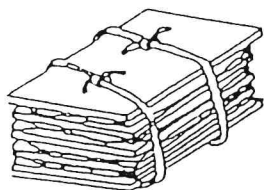
ADDRESS _____

CONTACT PERSON _____

PHONE _____

FAX _____

Return to: WA Herbarium, CALM, Locked Bag 104,
Bentley Delivery Centre, WA 6983



WA Plant Press

A newsletter produced for regional herbaria and herbarium volunteers, "WA Plant Press" has information about interesting finds of rare or new plants, new books useful for identification, helpful hints on collecting and mounting specimens, upcoming workshops and new appointments. Regional herbaria are encouraged to contribute items also.

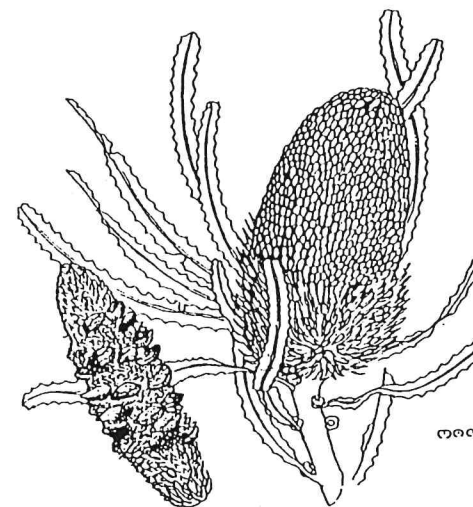
Volume 1 was published in June 1997 and Volume 2 in December 1997; back numbers are available.

Volume 3 will be published shortly and will include an item on cooperation with local government, another on nature trails and information on recent books, as well as .

If you wish to receive "WA Plant Press", information on the Regional Herbaria Project or other aspects of the resources available in the CALM Herbarium, please fill in the reply slip and send it in.

We would like to hear from you!

How
the CALM Herbarium
Reference Collection
can help
YOUR GROUP



Department of Conservation
and Land Management

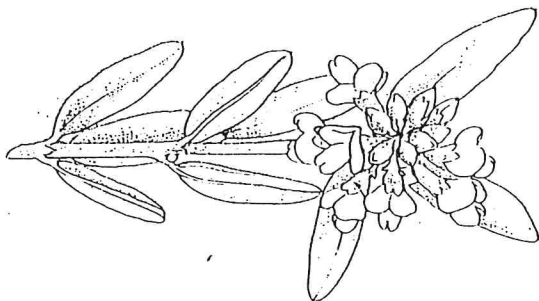
Greening Western Australia



The CALM Herbarium is a storehouse of 435,000 plant specimens from all over the state, dried and pressed, mounted on acid-free paper and kept at correct temperature and humidity. They have been identified and each sheet is bar-coded and databased so that any change in identification resulting from research can be recorded.

The Reference Collection has a typical specimen of each species mounted in a protective plastic covering, often with a description and drawing, and they are kept in lever-arch files. The specimens are arranged alphabetically in their families for easy reference. Members of the public can use these specimens for comparison with plants they wish to identify.

Each Reference Herbarium specimen has a duplicate in the main Herbarium collection and the two are computer-linked, so that the names are kept up to date with the latest scientific work.



Does your group need access to reliable names of WA flora?

Do you wish to record all the species in a particular area for conservation purposes, or need to know which plants to use for replanting, or want to develop tourism sites connected with local wildflowers?

Any group studying local flora needs to collect samples of plants, press them and label them to start their own reference herbarium. This may seem a daunting task but by using the plant identification facilities of the CALM Herbarium, you have access to a reliable and comprehensive naming system. Also, by sending duplicate specimens for incorporation into the CALM Herbarium, these specimens can be recorded as coming from a particular regional herbarium, so that you will be notified of any changes in name, which happen as a result of ongoing scientific work on our rich and diverse flora.

An example is the plant illustrated to the left, formerly known as *Oxylobium lanceolatum*, after recent study and comparison with closely related species, it has now reverted to the earlier name of *Callistachys lanceolata*,

Regional Herbaria Project

This project has received National Heritage Trust funding to provide, in partnership with Greening WA, training, access to plant identification and access to biological information for Landcare and related organisations in the Network of Regional Herbaria, which currently includes 50 groups and the number is growing.

It is important to document Western Australia's flora because it is rich and diverse but there are still many species which need further study or are as yet undescribed. There is increasing concern about loss of diversity and degradation of ecosystems and the need to manage remaining bushland for the future. Also, many WA plants contain potentially valuable essential oils or pharmaceutical compounds and it is vital to exactly identify the source plants.

Due to the relative lack of publications suitable for the general public to aid in the identification of WA plants, it has been difficult in the past for people to confidently put names to the plants they collect. The resources of the CALM Reference Collection can remedy this.