

# New book aids flora discovery

by SUE PATRICK

CALM's recently published book *Western Australia's Endangered Flora* has helped make an exciting rediscovery.

Gwen Abbott, a member of the Eastern Hills branch of the Wildflower Society - who has an extensive knowledge of the flora of the Darling Range - telephoned me recently. She had noticed a drawing of *Grevillea flexuosa* in the selection of presumed extinct species of the book, and remembered that she had collected it five years previously.

At that time there was some confusion between this cream-flowered species and *Grevillea leptobotrya*, which, among other differences, has pink flowers.

Gwen's specimen was found and proved indeed to be *Grevillea flexuosa*, the first collection made since James Drummond's Type Collection about 150 years ago.

A spreading shrub up to two metres tall, it has spikes of cream flowers with a strong sweet scent and grows

on a high granite hill in the Darling Range east of Perth.

As Gwen knows the area well and has not seen it elsewhere, it is unlikely to be common.

That same week two other similar discoveries were made.

A specimen of *Verticordia*, sent by CALM ranger Alan Rose for identification as part of the Stirling Range National Park Field Herbarium, was found to be *Verticordia carinata*.

This also had not been previously collected since James Drummond made the Type Collection in the 1840's.

Yet another rediscovery came from Bill Archer, who runs a nursery at Esperance.

He'd asked us to confirm a specimen of *Comesperma lanceolatum*.

It corresponded well to the description, although no type specimen is yet available for comparison.

An earlier collection of the same species was found to have been made by Ken Newbey, but apart from this it appears it has not otherwise been collected since Robert Brown found it in 1803 near Esperance.