

# Rare flowers bloom

by ANDREW BROWN

WA is deservedly renowned for its spectacular displays of wildflowers. More than 8000 species have so far been named.

With many more yet to be described, this number is likely to increase to more than 10,000 once the task of collecting our rich and diverse flora is complete.

With such a wealth of species it's not surprising many have developed special habitat requirements for their survival and therefore occur only over very narrow geographical ranges.

Special legislation has been adopted to protect the most endangered of these. Currently 247 taxa are declared as rare and endangered within the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act.

Over the next few months many of our endangered species will bloom. Illustrated here are five of the rarest. Further information on these or any of the other declared rare species may be obtained from the new CALM publication *Western Australia's Endangered Flora*.



**Caladenia sp**

Growing to 20cm high, the hinged dragon orchid is known from just a few sandy rises fringing salt lakes between Meckering and Coorow.

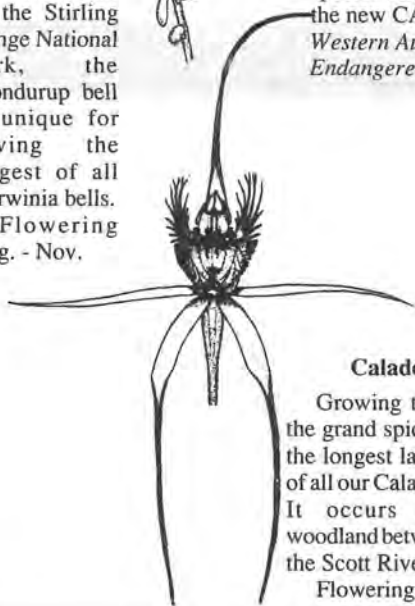
Flowering Aug. - Oct.



**Darwinia macrostegia**

Known only from hillsides and valleys in the Western part of the Stirling Range National Park, the Mondurup bell is unique for having the largest of all Darwinia bells.

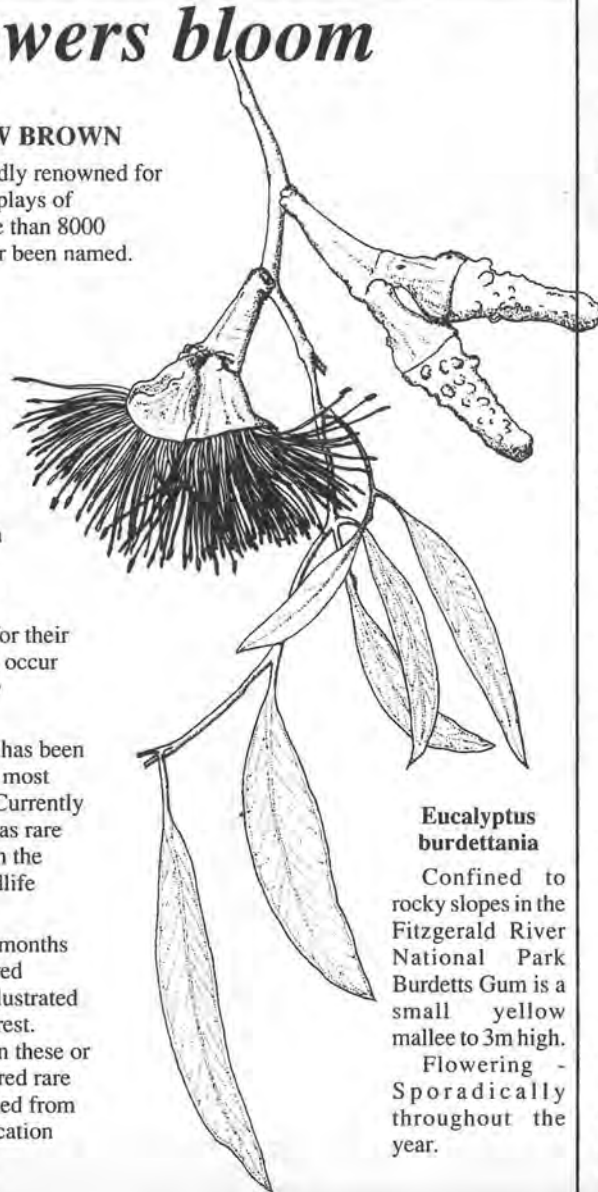
Flowering Aug. - Nov.



**Caladenia sp**

Growing to 60cm high, the grand spider orchid has the longest labellum fringe of all our Caladenia species. It occurs in banksia woodland between Perth and the Scott River plains.

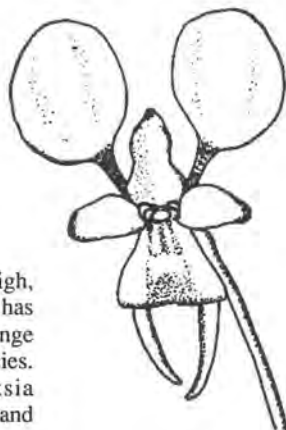
Flowering Sept. - Oct.



**Eucalyptus burdettiana**

Confined to rocky slopes in the Fitzgerald River National Park Burdett's Gum is a small yellow mallee to 3m high.

Flowering - Sporadically throughout the year.



**Diuris sp**

The swamp donkey orchid is confined to a single winter-wet swamp near Medina. Growing to 30cm high, it has up to eight pale yellow flowers with dark maroon markings.

Flowering Aug. - Sept.

Illustrations by  
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