

NEW FOREST FLORA

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In the latest Bulletin of the Western Australian Herbarium, NUYTSIA, the following new species from the south-west were described.

Eucalyptus calcicola: a mallee to 2.5 m tall from Hamelin Bay. Among the collections recorded was one by P. Christensen in 1973. E. calcicola has a restricted distribution on the westerly aspect of massive calcareous dunes near the coast of Hamelin Bay, to the south of Cape Freycinet. It occurs in dense clusters of mallees generally emergent above the surrounding sclerophyllous shrubs and frequently on outcropping limestone (the reason for the specific name).

Eucalyptus exilis: a mallee to 6 m tall with slender, erect stems. A specimen collected by D.H. Perry in 1952 is recorded from the 63 mile peg on the boundary of the Mundaring Weir Catchment area. Other locations are Boyagin Rock Reserve and Wickepin Reserve.

Eucalyptus brevistylis: a large tree to 40 m tall, it occurs in a small area of the Soho and London Blocks of the forest north-east of Walpole. B.J. White (1971) reports that the external appearance of the tree is that of E. jacksonii Maiden (red tingle), although the wood is similar to E. guilfoylei Maiden (yellow tingle).

A tribute must be made to the late Forester Rate, through whose collections and persistent efforts from the early 1950's these trees have been recognised as a distinct species. The species in my opinion (formed in 1954 with Forester Rate) warrants field trials subject to testing for dieback resistance. In any case, due to its extreme isolation it should be cultivated as a means of preservation of the species.

Grevillea ripicola: the specific epithet refers to the habitat, i.e. growing on river banks. This newly named species grows on the banks of the Collie River near Collie and it is a densely branched shrub to 3 m tall.

In my experience it only grows along those parts of the Collie River that flow through the coal basin and it forms a thick impenetrable barrier to would-be marron and perch fishermen. It is strange that Collie residents have been cursing it since last century but it was not until a wild-flower society was formed there about 1965 that it was found to be a distinct species.