FURTHER NOTES ON ADENANTHOS APICULATUS

by A. B. Selkirk

This species was under investigation at the time the article in Forest Notes Vol. 7 No. 3 was written and has since been allocated the name of Adenanthos teges by Mr Alex George of the State Herbarium in 1973. (Nuytsia Vol. 1 No. 4 1974).

"Distribution: restricted to a few populations on the Darling Plateau, near Mundaring Weir and Chidlow, east of Perth.

Other collections: type locality, December 1969, A.B. Selkirk (PERTH) ± 2 km north of Chidlow, Western Australia - 31°51'S, 116°16'E, 7 December 1973, A.S. George 11759 (PERTH, MEL, RSA).

Adenanthos teges is remarkable for its dense, mat-like habit: the margins of the plant can be lifted almost like a carpet and then replaced on the ground. It was discovered in 1966 by Mr A.B. Selkirk, of the Forests Department of W.A., who was intrigued by its resistance to burning. During controlled-burning of the forest near Mundaring, this plant not only resisted burning but in doing so protected those plants growing within the margin of the "mats".

The species is allied to A. cygnorum Diels and A. sericeus Labill. Besides the markedly different habit, it differs from both in the smaller flowers, the indumentum, and the larger glands at the apices of the lobes of the leaves. A. cygnorum has thicker leaves, often more divided than those of A. teges and occurs on deep sands of the coastal plain north and south of Perth. A. sericeus has bright red flowers, and occurs in deep sand or rocky sand of the south coastal heaths from Albany to Israelite Bay. A. teges grows in lateritic soils in Jarrah forest (Eucalyptus marginata Donn. ex Sm.) in a few localities near Mundaring Weir, east of Perth."

In 1971 two plants were established on a gravel road verge in conjunction with several plants of A. cygnorum at Mundaring Weir H.Q. These plants have now extended to a radius of 6 feet and maintained their perfect prostrate form.

The main growing season is during summer with the greatest seed production towards the end of March.

Without forest canopy protection these specimens suffer from frost damage in a severe winter.

A further attempt at establishment in grey deep sand has been unsuccessful. However, as a ground cover in native vegetation cultivation in soil of gravelly clay or gravel over clays, the species has a broad potential with a pleasing result.