

# A new species of *Philotheca*, *P. tubiflora*—the first record of the genus, sensu stricto, for Western Australia

By A. S. George

PHILOTHECA Rudge

*Philotheca tubiflora* A. S. George sp. nov.

Frutex 30–60 cm altus, ramosissimus; ramuli et folia juvenes minuter pubescentes, mox glabri. Folia sparsa, conferta, clavata-teretia, 2.5–4 mm longa, breviter petiolata, glandulis oleosis prominentibus, etiam glandulo apiculato fusco; excrescentia stipularia brunnea. Flores terminales vel raro axillares, solitarii, pedicellis brevibus crassis. Bractee plures, parvae, apiculatae. Lobi calycis 1–1.5 mm longi, late-lanceolati, obtusi, apiculati, marginibus ciliatis, vix imbricatis. Petala 8–12 mm longa, pro 3–5 mm connata ubi cum filamentis staminorum conjuncta, alba vel pallide punicea, anguste, oblongo-elliptica, obtusa, partes liberae ante anthesin imbricatae, deinde fere ad calycem recurvi, intus (etiam extus ad margines) dense pubescentes; tubus intus et extus glaber. Filamenta staminalia cum tubo corollae conjuncta, partes liberae dense hirsutae. Antherae apiculatae. Carpelli glabri; discus obscurus vix lobatus. Stylus crassus, teres, pilosus, primo quam stamina brevior, mox paulo longior. Stigma parvum truncatum. Cocci fructiferi uniseminati, obtusi. Semina reniforma, 2.7 mm longa.

*Type:* Near Point Kidman, 26 miles ENE of Laverton on White Cliffs road (122°47'E, 28°30'S), on rocky hill with *Callitris huegelii*. A. S. George 4506, 29 June 1963 (holo.:PERTH, iso.: PERTH, CANB, MEL, NSW, K, NY).

A shrub 30–60 cm tall, much-branched; young branchlets and leaves minutely pubescent, but soon glabrous. Leaves scattered, crowded, clavate-terete, 2.5–4 mm long, shortly petiolate, with prominent oil glands and a brown apical gland; stipular excrescences brown. Flowers terminal or rarely axillary, solitary, on short thick pedicels. Bracts several, small, apiculate. Calyx-lobes 1–1.5 mm long, broadly lanceolate, obtuse, apiculate, margins ciliate, slightly imbricate. Petals 8–12 mm long, connate for 3–5 mm and united with the staminal filaments, white or pale pink, narrowly oblong-elliptic, obtuse, the free portions imbricate before anthesis, then recurved almost to the calyx, densely pubescent inside, and outside along the margins; tube glabrous inside and out. Staminal filaments united with corolla tube, the free parts densely hirsute. Anthers apiculate. Carpels glabrous, 3 mm high; disc obscure, slightly lobed. Style thick and terete, pilose, at first shorter than the stamens but later elongating slightly above them. Stigma small, truncate. Fruiting cocci one-seeded, obtuse. Seeds reniform, 2.7 mm long.

*Distribution:* Western Australia, on the western edge of the Great Victoria Desert near Laverton.

24 miles NE of Laverton on Cosmo Newberry road (near Deeba Rockhole), on low rocky rise with *Callitris* and *Dodonaea*, A. S. George 2832, 23 Aug. 1961 (PERTH); White Cliffs woolshed, 40 miles ENE of Laverton (122°58'E, 28°25'S), along edge of breakaway, A. S. George 4538, 30 June 1963 (PERTH, AD, BRI, RSA).

This species differs from all others principally in the union of the lower parts of the petals and staminal filaments into a tube. The brown apiculate glands of the leaves, bracts and calyx-lobes are also distinctive. It is the only species of the genus in Western Australia, and its occurrence on the edge of the Great Victoria Desert is of much interest. The other species occur in near-coastal situations in New South Wales and Queensland. The Western Australian species formerly included in *Philotheca* are now placed in the genus *Drummondita* Harvey (see P. G. Wilson, *Nuytsia* 1,2:205).

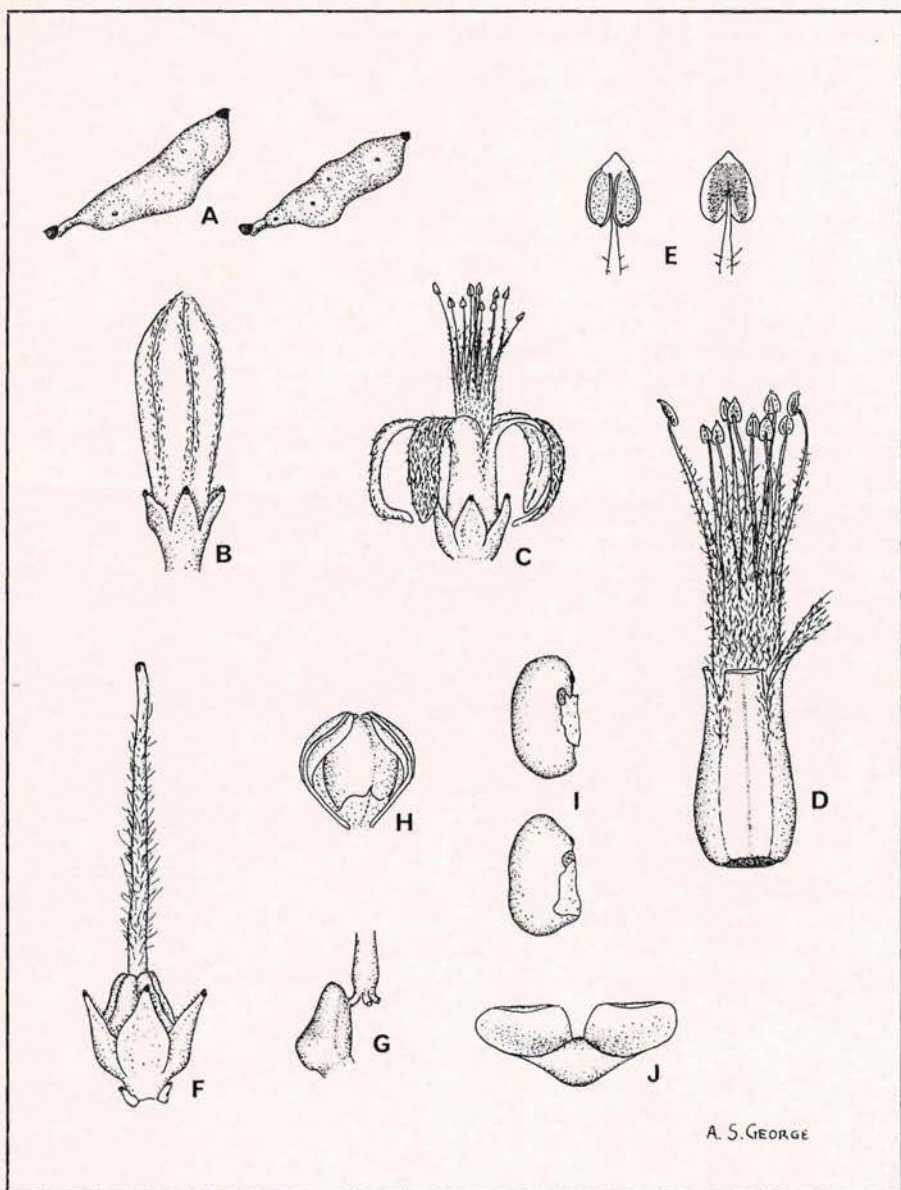


Figure 1—*Philotheca tubiflora* sp. nov. A—Leaves, with stipular excrescences, x10. B—Bud, x5. C—Flower, x 4·5. D—Corolla tube and stamens, x 6. E—Anthers, x 17. F—Bracts, calyx, carpels and style, x 6. G—Attachment of style to carpel. H—Carpel before dehiscence, x 4·5. I—Seeds, with membranous portion of endocarp and abortive ovule attached, x 6. J—Endocarp after dehiscence. A-G from A. S. George 4506; H from George 2832; I, J from George 4538.