

A new species of *Anigozanthos* (Haemodoraceae) from Western Australia

By A. S. George

Abstract

Anigozanthos onycis sp. nov. is described. It is related to *A. humilis* Lindl. and *A. preissii* Endl.

Anigozanthos onycis A. S. George, sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Herba rhizomate brevi foliis scapisque ephemeris. *Rhizoma* in solo 3–4 cm, bracteis (basibus foliorum) latis, glabris corvinis vestita; radices tenues, tenaces. *Folia infima* plures, bractei-formia, lineari-acuminata, 2–4 cm longa, glabra, in sicco scariosa, brunnea; *supera* linearia canaliculata, glabra, basibus albis vaginantibus. *Scapi* pauci, 15–30 cm alti, racemis 2, 4, 6 vel 8 ferentes, ubi plus quam 2 late-ramosi ut in *A. rufus* Labill. *Caulis* in solo glaber, supra etiam flores dense tomentoso-hirsutus pilis ramosissimis patulis rubris stramineisque. *Folia* caulina amplexicaulia, late-linearia sed in apices acutos angustata, canaliculata, glabra vel sparse tomentosa marginibus plerumque tomentosis; folia caulina infima 10–14 cm longa, *supera* breviora. *Racemi* 5–9-floribus stramineis, indumento ad basin pallido, supra rubro ut flos ruber videtur. *Pedicelli* sub-anthesi 2–5 mm longi, unusquisque ab bractea subulata tomentosa 2–5 cm longa subtentus. *Perianthium* 4.5–5 cm longum, ovarium tumidum 5–7 mm late includens. *Tubus perianthii* latere inferiore (antico) usque ad 1 cm ovarii fissus; *lobi* subulati, patulissimi, non recurvi, apicales (postici) recti, 8–12 mm longi, laterales (antici) falcati, 10–19 mm long, omnes intus arcte stellato-tomentosi; perianthium intus cetera glabrum. *Stamina* ad basin loborum perianthii in costis inserta; anthera 3–4 mm longa appendicibus 2 apicalibus minutissimis. *Stylus* anthera breviter excedens, tenuis, glaber; stigma parva. *Ovarium* 3-loculares; ovula numerosa. *Fructus* non visus.

Type: South Stirling, southern Western Australia, 1 Oct. 1972, R. Dixon s.n. Holo: PERTH (Fig. 1), iso: CANB. Flowers in spirit collection at PERTH, no. 1260/B.

Herb with short rhizome, the leaves and scapes ephemeral. *Rhizome* 3–4 cm below ground level, covered with broad, glabrous blue-black bracts (leaf bases); roots thin, wiry. *Lowest leaves* several, bract-like, linear-acuminate, 2–4 cm long, glabrous, scarios when dry, brown; *upper leaves* linear, canaliculate, glabrous, the bases white and sheathing. *Scapes* few, 15–30 cm high, with 2, 4, 6 or 8 racemes, when more than 2 widely branched as in *A. rufus* Labill. *Stem* glabrous below ground, densely tomentose-hirsute above as well as the flowers, the hairs much-branched, spreading, red and cream. *Stem leaves* amplexicaul, broadly linear but tapering to acute apices, canaliculate, glabrous or sparsely tomentose, the margins usually tomentose; lowest stem leaves 10–14 cm long, upper ones shorter. *Racemes* of 5–9 flowers, pale green-cream, the indumentum pale at base, red above, giving the whole flower a red aspect, deeper on the upper side. *Pedicels* at anthesis 2–5 mm long, each subtended by a subulate, tomentose bract 1–3 cm long. *Perianth* 4.5–5 cm long including the swollen ovary which is 5–7 mm across. *Perianth tube* split on lower (anterior) side to within 1 cm of ovary; *lobes* subulate, very spreading, not recurved, apical (posterior) ones straight, 8–12 mm long, lateral (anterior) ones falcate, 10–19 mm long, closely stellate-tomentose within; the perianth otherwise glabrous within. *Stamens* inserted at base of perianth lobes on midribs; 4 upper anthers almost in line, the 2 lowest slightly below them; uppermost filaments 3–4 mm long, lowermost 6–8 mm; anthers 3–4 mm long with 2 very small apical appendages. Style shortly exceeding anthers, slender, glabrous; *stigma* small. *Ovary* 3-celled; ovules many per locule. *Fruit* not seen.

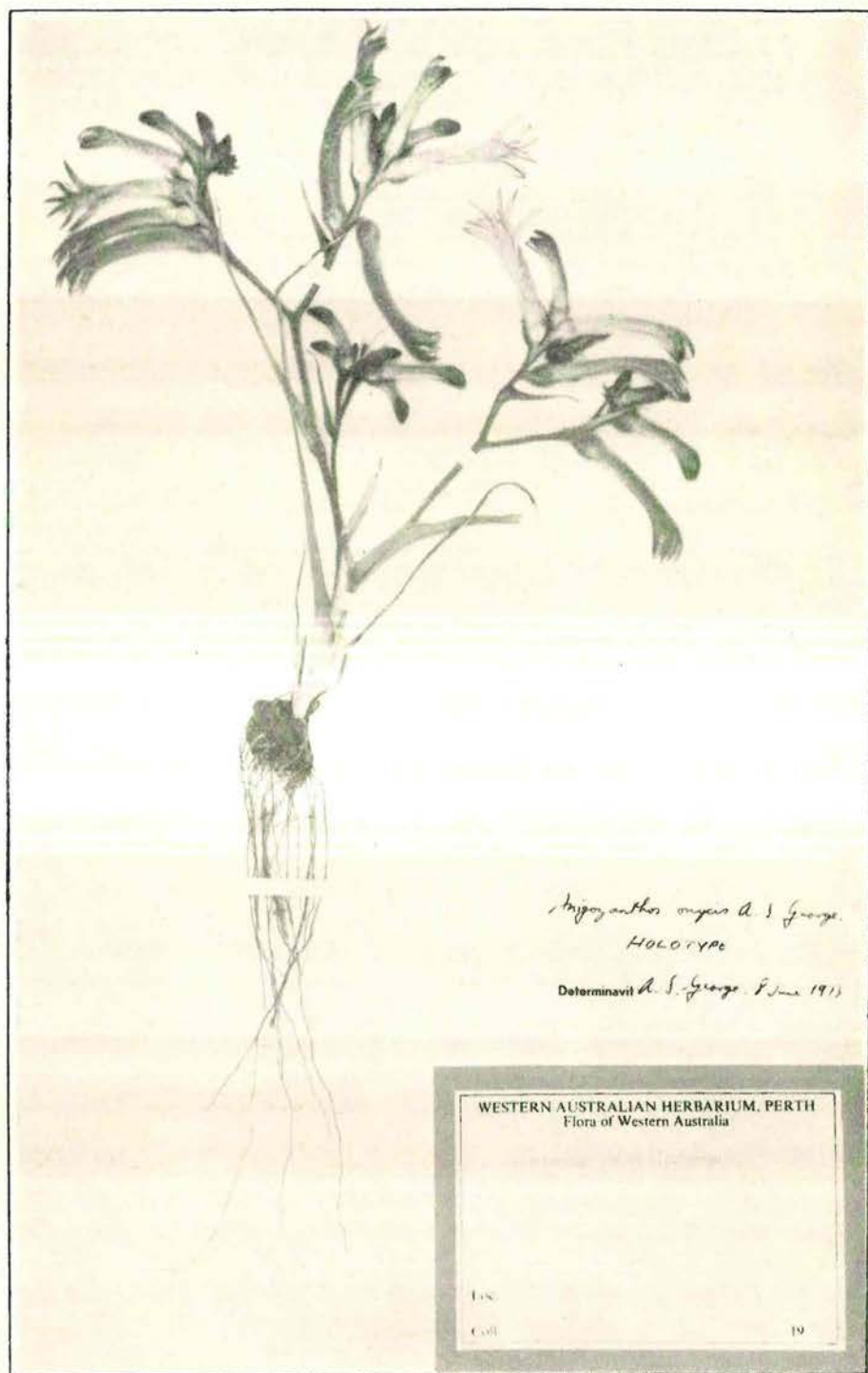


Figure 1—*Anigozanthos onycis* sp. nov. Holotype—South Stirling, R. Dixon (PERTH).

Distribution: Western Australia: South Stirling sandheaths, between the Stirling Range and the Green Range.

Albany district—received at A.I.M. Flower Show, Kalgoorlie, 19 Sept. 1962, *A. S. George* 4186 (PERTH); South Stirling, on property of W. T. Grocock, per *H. Venning*, 15 Sept. 1969 (PERTH).

The new species is allied to *Anigozanthos humilis* Lindl. and *A. preissii* Endl., both of which also have perennating rhizomes and ephemeral leaves and scapes. *A. humilis* usually has simple scapes (if branched then with one or two erect branches near the base) with racemes of up to 15 flowers; the perianth is 3–4.5 cm long with lobes 6–9 mm long, usually slightly recurved; the anthers are 2–3 mm long, unappendaged, on filaments 1.5–2.5 mm long, arranged in 3 pairs. It is widespread in sandy soils between the Murchison River and Albany, and east to Esperance. *A. preissii* has narrow-linear to sub-cylindrical leaves, and erect scapes 30–80 cm tall which are once forked just below the flowers. The perianth is 5–6.6 cm long, divided for over half its length, i.e. the tube 1–1.5 cm long above the oary; the lobes are 10–20 mm long and spreading; the anthers are 3–4 mm long with short prominent apical appendages, the upper filaments 5–6 mm long, the lower 10–12 mm long and arranged as in *A. onycis*. It is restricted to sandy woodlands and swamp margins within 50 km of Albany.

The specific epithet, derived from the Greek *onyx* (a claw, talon), refers to the claw-like appearance of the open flower.

Reference

GEERINCK, D. (1970)—Revision du genre *Anigozanthos* Labill. (Haemodoraceae d'Australie) in *Bull. Jard. Bot. Nat. Belg.* **40**, 3:261–276.