

Dryandra mimica, a new species of Proteaceae from south-west Western Australia

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Abstract

George, A. S. *Dryandra mimica*, a new species of Proteaceae from south-west Western Australia. Nuytsia 5(1): 49-51 (1984). *Dryandra mimica* is described and discussed. Superficially resembling *D. nivea* (Labill.) R. Br., it is most closely related to *D. vestita* Kippist ex Meissner.

The genus *Dryandra* R. Br. (Proteaceae) has not been revised since its treatment by George Bentham in Volume 5 of the Flora Australiensis, published in 1870. Several new species have been described since then, but at least fifteen more await names. These will be published before the genus is prepared for Volume 17 of the "Flora of Australia", due to appear in 1988. One species is described here, however, in order to be available for the forthcoming "Flora of the Perth Region."

Dryandra mimica A. S. George, sp. nov. (Figure 1)

Species facie *Dryandrae niveae* (Labill.) R. Br., sed recte *D. vestitae* Kippist ex Meissner affinis, a qua habitu prostrato, foliis multi-dentatis, et tepalis penicillatis, praecipue differt.

Typus: Corner of Brentwood Rd and Crystal Brook Rd, Wattle Grove, Western Australia (32°04'S, 116°00'E), 17 Dec. 1972, A. S. George 11648 (holo: PERTH; iso: AD, CANB, K, MEL, NSW, PERTH).

Shrub with small lignotuber and short underground stems, the latter with many linear tomentose bract-like prophylls. *Leaves* crowded near stem apices, linear, attenuate towards base, pungent, mostly 13-35 cm long including petiole, 5-15 mm wide just below apex, tomentose above becoming glabrous, reticulate and closely tomentose below, dentate with many rigid, obtuse to acute lobes 1-2 mm long at 90° to midrib; sinuses U-shaped, mostly 3-8 mm wide; margins revolute; petiole 4-6 cm long, tomentose and loosely hirsute, the lamina decurrent as a narrow rib each side. *Inflorescences* terminal, becoming crowded over successive years; involucre bracts narrowly linear, attenuate, 17-22 mm long, rufous-villous in lower 2/3, distally hirsute and closely tomentose. *Flowers* c. 20 per head, evenly spaced over receptacle; bracts and bracteoles narrowly linear, c. 1 cm long, rufous-villous. *Perianth* straight or outer ones gently curved, 25-30 mm long, yellow, glabrous at base, then villous with curled hairs, then glabrous in distal half except a tuft of long white hairs at apex; glabrous inside; limb narrow, 7-8 mm long, its base not clearly marked. *Pistil* straight or gently curved, 24-27 mm long, stout at base, attenuate to apex, glabrous; pollen-presenter not thickened. *Hypogynous scales* linear, acute, 2 mm long. *Follicles* few, ± oblong but upper margin obliquely curved to stylar side, swollen at base, 2 cm long, 1 cm wide, covered with matted appressed hairs, the base and stylar side also with long, straight rufous hairs.

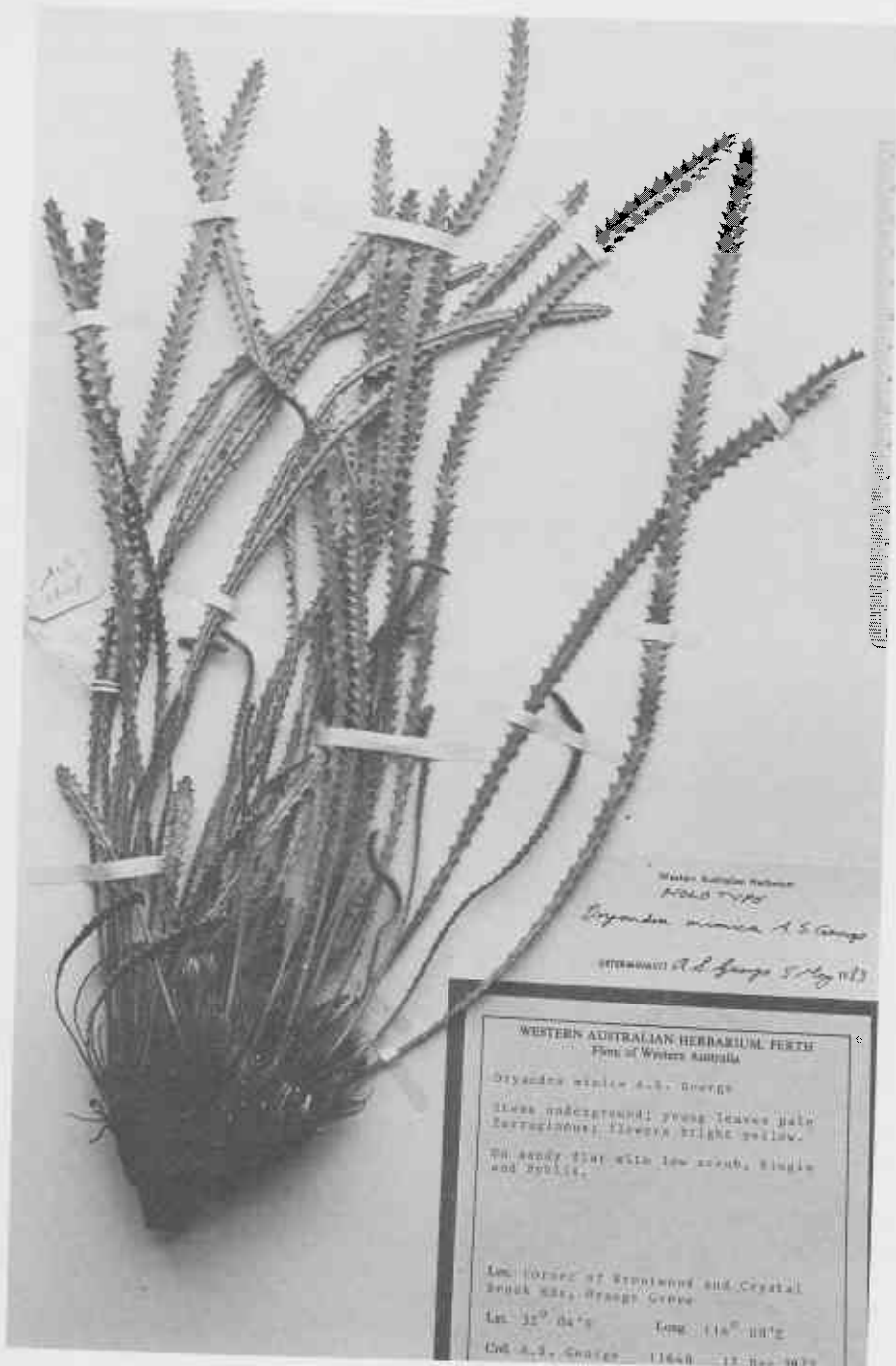


Figure 1. *Dryandra mimica*. Holotype (A. S. George 11648).

Other collections examined. Type locality, 6 Aug. 1964, A. S. George 6360 (with old flowers) (PERTH); W of Mogumber Siding, 3 Sept. 1975, A. S. George 14165 (with old flowers) (PERTH); Acton Park Road, Whicher (Range), 13 Sept. 1976, G. S. McCutcheon 823 (sterile) (PERTH).

Distribution. Western Australia, known from the three localities cited.

Habitat. At the type locality on a sandy flat among low shrubland with scattered emergent *Eucalyptus marginata* and *Kingia australis*; at Mogumber on a deep sandy slope in *Banksia* low open woodland with heath understorey.

Flowering period. December-January.

Affinities. The species has very much the aspect of *Dryandra nivea* (Labill.) R. Br., with which it grows at the type locality. This resemblance is superficial, arising from the prostrate habit and dentate leaves. In fact, the leaves have rounded sinuses, not V-shaped as in *D. nivea*. The floral arrangement is different, *D. nivea* having the flowers (pale brown) arising around the margin of the receptacle leaving a broad central cavity at anthesis, whereas in *D. mimica* the flowers (yellow) arise evenly and evenly spaced from the receptacle. This arrangement is the same as that of *D. vestita* Kippist ex Meissner which is the closest relative of the new species. The floral structure and indumentum are like those of *D. vestita*, except that *D. mimica* has an apical tuft of long straight hairs which is lacking in *D. vestita*. The involucre bracts are similar in these two species and the close covering of prophylls on the underground stems of *D. mimica* has a parallel in the prophylls on the aerial stems of *D. vestita*. Both flower in summer, an unusual flowering period in the genus. At anthesis the tepals separate but do not relax, the limb loosely enclosing the pollen-presenter. In most species of *Dryandra*, including *D. nivea*, the tepals relax and curl back, leaving the pollen-presenter free.

Conservation status. Endangered, coded 3E (Leigh, Briggs & Hartley 1981). The type locality is freehold land and the Mogumber locality has been partly cleared.

Etymology. The Latin *mimicus*, imitative, refers to the superficial resemblance of the new species to *Dryandra nivea*.

Reference

- Leigh, J. H., Briggs, J. D. & Hartley, W. (1981). "Rare or Threatened Australian Plants". (Austral. Natl. Parks & Wildl. Serv., Special Publication 7: Canberra).