

Patersonia spirafolia (Iridaceae), a new species from south-western Australia

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Abstract

Keighery, G.J. *Patersonia spirafolia*, (Iridaceae) a new species from south-western Australia. Nuytsia 7(2): 137-139 (1990). *Patersonia spirafolia* G.J. Keighery is described and illustrated.

Introduction

Patersonia was studied for the "Flora of Australia" by Cooke (1986). However, at that time an apparently undescribed species, represented at PERTH by a single collection bearing old capsules, was not commented upon by Cooke. Since then I have been able to collect flowering material and ascertain that these populations indeed represent a distinct, undescribed species which is described below.

Patersonia spirafolia G.J. Keighery, sp. nov. (Figure 1)

Herba perennis caespes ad 40 cm latitudo formans. Folia torsiva, 5-20 cm longa, margine brunnea, pilis adpressis. Scapus glaber, 15-25 cm. longus. Spathae lanceolatae, 24-26 mm vel 21-22 mm longa, brunnea, glabra.

Typus: Unnamed hill, 30° 24' S, 115° 21' E, NW corner of Badgingarra National Park, Western Australia, 15 October 1988, G.J. Keighery 10409 (holo: PERTH; iso: CANB, K, MEL, NSW).

Rootstock a spreading woody rhizome, forming a tussock to 40 cm across, producing 2-15 slender, erect, leafy, woody stems to 30 cm, covered by leaf bases. *Leaves* linear, spirally twisted, 50-200 x 3-5 mm, biconvex with minute grooves; margins brown, with silky, appressed hairs pointing to the middle; base brown, scarious, glabrous. *Scape* 150-250 x 1-2 mm, glabrous, reddish-green. *Spathe* lanceolate (longest 24-26 mm, shortest 21-22 mm), brown, glabrous; margins scarious, almost transparent. *Involucre* slightly gaping; inner bracts exposed, 7-9 mm wide. *Flowers* sessile, fugacious, each with a scarious bracteole, diurnal; floral tube filiform,

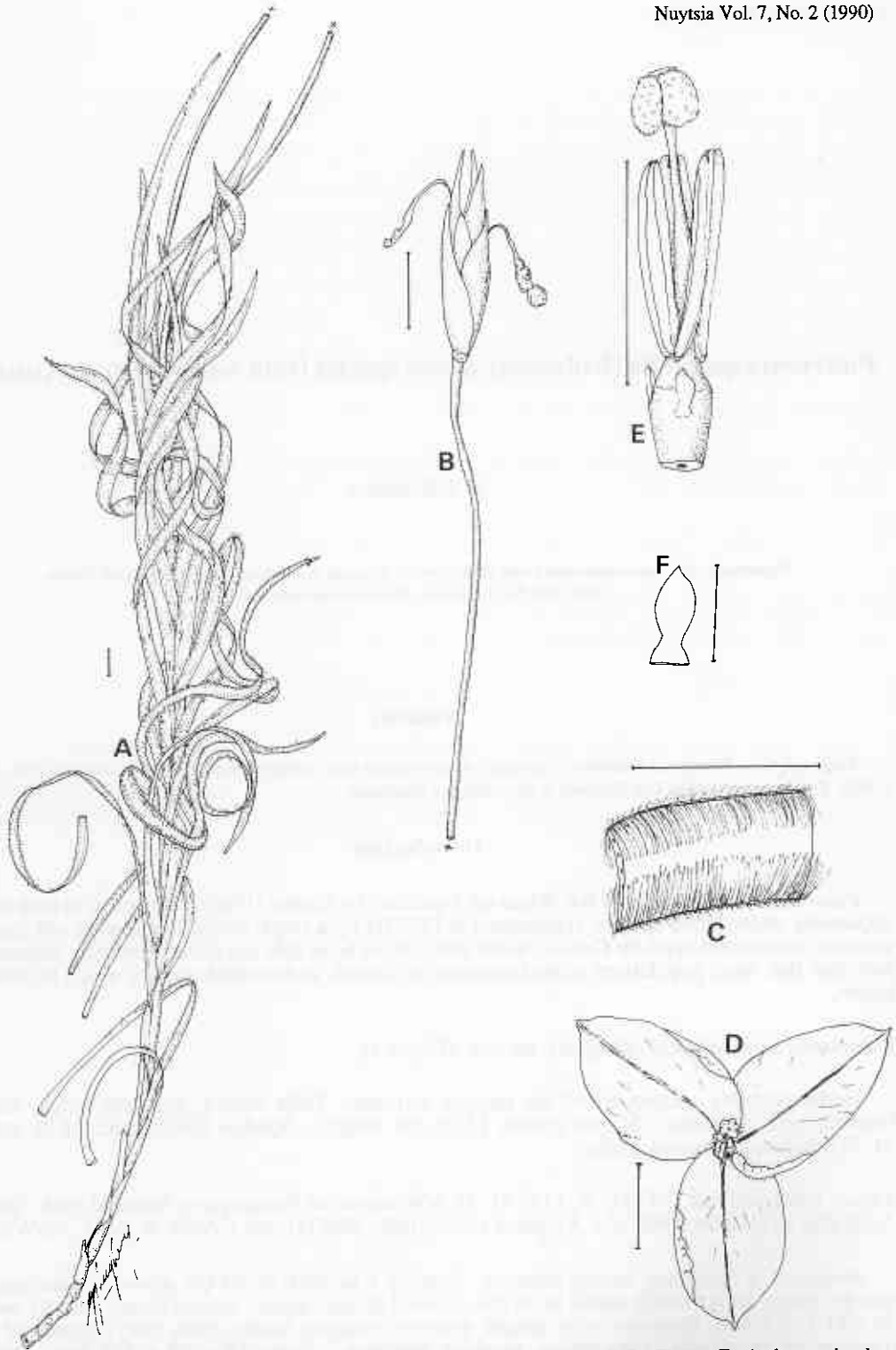


Figure 1. *Patersonia spirifolia*. A - Flowering branch. B - Inflorescence. C - Leaf detail. D - Flower. E - Anthers and style. F - Petal, A-E based on type. Scale bar A,B,D = 10 mm. Scale bar C,E,F = 1 mm.

11-16 mm long, sparsely hairy at ovary summit, included in the bracts. *Sepals* free, rhomboid, spreading, 16-19 mm x 8-14 mm, blue-violet. *Petals*, erect, blue-violet, c. 1 mm long; apex acute. *Stamens* inserted at apex of floral tube; filaments 2-4 mm long, white, connate. *Anthers* connective triangular, basifixed, yellow; 7-8 mm long, dehiscent by slits. *Style* filiform, narrowed towards base, c. 10 mm long; stigmatic lobes 3, equal, flattened, free, papillose on upper surface. *Ovary* pubescent. *Capsule* ovoid-oblong, 1.5-3 cm long. *Seed* not seen.

Other specimens examined. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: W of Yerramullah Road on Cadda Road, 30° 24' S, 115° 20' E, G.J. Keighery 10450 (PERTH); 6 km E of Munbinea Road on Cadda Road, 30° 24' S, 115° 18' E, G.J. Keighery 10452 (PERTH); 5.5 km E of Munbinea Road on Bibby Road, 30° 28' S, 115° 18' E, G.J. Keighery 10457 (PERTH); Badgingarra National Park, April 1984, G.J. Keighery s.n. (PERTH).

Notes. Occurs on low hills in and around Badgingarra National Park, along the Gardner Range.

Habitat. Grows in low, species-rich heath in sand over laterite.

Flowering period. October to November.

Discussion. *Patersonia spirifolia* belongs with those Western Australian species of *Patersonia* which form tussocks, comprising *P. inaequalis* and *P. drummondii*. It differs from *P. inaequalis* in having purple flowers and brown spathes; it differs from *P. drummondii* in the short appressed hairs on the leaf margins and the shorter spathes, which are brown when flowering occurs.

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to the spirally twisted leaves.

Conservation status. The species has a restricted range, but is relatively common within Badgingarra National Park.

Acknowledgements

The *Banksia* Woodlands Survey Group of the Western Australian Wildflower Society rediscovered this species and stimulated the author to describe it. Bronwen Keighery assisted in relocating the type locality.

Reference

- Cooke, D.A. (1986). Iridaceae. In George, A.S. (ed.) "Flora of Australia", vol. 46, pp. 1-66. (Australian Government Publishing Service: Canberra.)