

**CICENDIA ADANS. (GENTIANACEAE) NATURALIZED
IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

by G.J. KEIGHERY

ABSTRACT

Cicendia filiformis is recorded as a naturalized alien to the flora of Western Australia.

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Cicendia filiformis (L.) Delabre and *C. quadrangularis* (Lam.) Griseb. have been recorded as naturalized in South Australia (Black, 1965); New South Wales (Burbidge and Gray, 1970) and Victoria (Willis, 1972). The species are native to Southern and Western Europe (*C. filiformis*) and Northern America (*C. quadrangularis*) and can be separated by a simple key:

Leaves linear-lanceolate, calyx ovoid, ribs not prominent -	<i>C. filiformis</i>
Leaves ovate, calyx ovoid with four prominent ribs -	<i>C. quadrangularis</i>

All specimens collected in Western Australia agree with *Cicendia filiformis*. Since both species occur in South Australia, it can be anticipated that *C. quadrangularis* will be found in Western Australia in the future. Complete descriptions and illustrations of both taxa can be found in Black (1965) and additional notes in Eichler (1965).

ECOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION

Known collections are confined to the Swan Coastal Plain and Darling Scarp. However, the small size of the plant may account for its' being overlooked and large range extensions are anticipated.

Within the range reported below, *Cicendia* is found in winter-wet soils (clay swamps or granite moss swards on Red Hill) which have an ephemeral annual cover and few shrubs. The areas where the species is found show signs of disturbance (tracks, fires, or grazing) and the species does not appear to invade undisturbed bushland.

The earliest record for Western Australia appears to be from Yundurup (B.M.J. Hussey) in October, 1972. Other, later collections have been from Bullsbrook, J.R. Martyn Reserve 15 km north of Midland, Red Hill, and University Reserve Orange Grove.

At Orange Grove and Red Hill, plants are autogamous and self fertile; no vectors were noticed visiting the flowers. Seed is small and probably dispersed by wind.

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