

SHORT NOTES

SELLIERA RADICANS CAV. (GOODENIACEAE), A NEW RECORD FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This creeping perennial has been collected near Crusoe Beach, Wilson Inlet, east of Denmark (N.G. Marchant s.n. 4th March 1977, voucher specimen in PERTH). It was found growing on a muddy flat underneath paper-barked *Melaleuca* trees with various sedges and *Lobelia alata*. The habitat is periodically inundated with estuarine water and may receive fresh water from seepages at low tide.

Selliera radicans is native to coastal regions from Kangaroo Island and Eyre Peninsula in South Australia to the Sydney region, the Bass Strait islands and Tasmania. It is also found on the North and South islands of New Zealand as well as Stewart Island and in Chile, South America (Krause 1912).

The only known Western Australian occurrence is near a small fishing-boat anchorage a few kilometers away from any habitation. The area is quite undisturbed and it is not likely that *Selliera* has been introduced by man to the locality. The initial collection was sterile, its identity was confirmed after cultivation and subsequent flowering in Perth

Reference

Krause, K. (1912). Goodeniaceae und Brunoniaceae. *Das Pflanzenreich*, 4.277 (Heft 54): 112-113.

N.G. MARCHANT
Western Australian Herbarium
Perth.

MATTHIOLA (R.BR. IN) AIT. (BRASSICACEAE) NATURALIZED IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Matthiola incana (L.) Ait., the common garden stock, a native of the Mediterranean region, has become naturalized at a number of coastal localities in the Perth metropolitan region. The species has been recorded from Fremantle (GK 2490), Trigg Island (GK 2269) and Yanchep (Demarz 6483), a range of over 80 kilometres.

Generally the species has become established on limestone cliffs covered by sand, and not on open sandy beaches. Plants are robust perennials, purple flowered, persisting for up to seven years and producing copious amounts of seed (they are autogamous and self fertile, Keighery, 1980). Many seedlings are found during winter, but few survive their first summer drought.

Matthiola incana has also been recorded as a naturalized alien in South Australia by Eichler, 1965.

Voucher collections are lodged in PERTH and KPG.

References

- Eichler, H.J. *Supplement to Black's Flora of South Australia*. Government Printer. Adelaide 1965.
- Keighery, G.J. (1980). *Breeding Systems of Introduced Cruciferous Weeds*. Kings Park Unpublished Report. (Available on request).

G.J. Keighery
Kings Park and Botanic Garden
West Perth, Western Australia
6005.

PASSIFLORA CAERULEA IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Passiflora caerulea L. (Passifloraceae), a Brazilian species, is probably the most widely cultivated ornamental passion flower (Bailey, 1937). The species is a robust woody twining shrub, bearing large blue and white flowers during late spring and summer.

Within Western Australia *Passiflora caerulea* has been commonly cultivated via cuttings, and the species, though rare in modern gardens, can be frequently encountered in abandoned gardens, farms or occasionally road verges. Interestingly several vigorous colonies have been found growing between railroad lines (e.g. Bunbury: GK 2827, Cottesloe: GK 1859a, and Bridgetown: GK 3019; Vouchers in PERTH and KPG). These colonies form tangled shrubs from a spreading rootstock, and benefit from the frequent burning and slashing of these areas. Spread is probably via vegetative sections removed by passing trains, or in soil removed during repair work on the lines.

In all localities *Passiflora caerulea* spreads via vegetative means (rhizomes, rooted stems or fragmentation,) fruit is rarely formed. Material of this species in the Perth metropolitan area is self sterile, non autogamous and lacks a suitable pollinating agent.

At present, *Passiflora caerulea* appears to be in the grey area between a "persisting garden escape" (as noted by Willis, 1972) and a naturalized alien. It should prove an interesting subject to continue monitoring.

References

- Bailey, L.H. (1937). *The Standard Cyclopaedia of Horticulture*, Vol. III, p-z, pp. 2423-3639. The Macmillan Company. New York.
- Willis, J.H. (1972). *A Handbook to Plants in Victoria: Vol. II Dicotyledons*. Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.

G.J. Keighery
Kings Park and Botanic Garden
West Perth, Western Australia
6005.