

## 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 Kings Park Unpublished Report.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.