

ABORIGINAL NAMES FOR PLANT
SPECIES IN SOUTH-WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

by Dr Ian Abbott



FORESTS DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
TECHNICAL PAPER NO 5

**ABORIGINAL NAMES FOR PLANT
SPECIES IN SOUTH-WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

by Dr Ian Abbott

**Forests Department of WA
P J M^cNamara
Acting Conservator of Forests**

1983

SUMMARY

Over 260 Aboriginal names, referable to 103 plant species occurring mainly in South-western Australian forests and woodlands, are listed. Several names are short and euphonious and could well replace English vernacular names in current use.



INTRODUCTION

Examination of regional floras so far published in Australia shows that very few Aboriginal names for plant species have been retained and used. Why? The answer may involve both indifference from professional botanists to the use of common names and their neglect of widely scattered and hard to retrieve published material. The book by Erickson, *et al.* (1973) is an important exception as it tried to promote the use of Aboriginal names for plant species. In this publication I have compiled a list (as accurate as possible) of Aboriginal names of plant species occurring, not necessarily exclusively, in the forests and woodlands of South-western Australia. Names from the desert areas of southern Western Australia fall beyond the scope of this paper, even though there exist many neglected names (e.g. Helms, 1896).

Aborigines occupied the Australian continent for at least, on present evidence, 40 000 years. In the South-west of Australia the jarrah and karri forests were inhabited by eight tribes (Tindale, 1974). Because these people obtained their food by hunting and gathering (Meagher, 1974), they very likely had a rich vocabulary which distinguished all of the plant and animal species of importance to them. This complexity would probably have been comparable to contemporary vocabularies of Groote Eylandt (Worsley, 1961), Kimberley (Crawford, 1982) and Arnhem Land (Specht, 1958) Aborigines and indigenes of New Guinea (Diamond, 1966).

Although mainland Western Australia was visited frequently by Europeans, mainly the Dutch, from 1629 and later English and French navigators, Aborigines generally avoided Europeans (Wood, 1943). After the British colonized what is now Western Australia in 1826, Europeans had extensive opportunities to communicate with Aborigines. However, few Europeans befriended individual Aborigines or made extensive observations of their customs, behaviour and language. Such information forms the basis of the present list.

This vocabulary is founded on the efforts of three men: Robert Menli Lyon (1833), George Grey (1840, 1841) and George Fletcher Moore (1842). It is pertinent to provide a few relevant biographical details here, taken mainly from the Australian Dictionary of Biography. Lyon lived at the Swan River settlement from 1829-1834 and at various times was in charge of Aboriginal prisoners; Grey lived at the settlements at Swan River and King George Sound at various times between 1838 and 1840; and Moore was Advocate-General at the Swan River settlement and was resident in Perth and at Upper Swan (Millendon) from 1830-1840 (and later).

Other nineteenth century residents who provide, *inter alia*, a few Aboriginal names are: S. Nind (1831), surgeon of the first settlement at King George Sound from 1826-1829; H.W. St. P. Bunbury (see Bunbury and Morrell, 1930), based at Pinjarra and Busselton between 1836 and 1837; J. Drummond, resident from 1829-1863 and botanical explorer of the South-west (see Meagher, 1974); L. Preiss, botanical explorer of the South-west from 1838-1842 (Lehmann, 1844-8); R. Salvado, founder of the Benedictine Mission at New Norcia and resident there from 1846-1849 (and later); C. Symmons, Protector of Aborigines at Perth in the 1830's; J. Hammond (1933), in contact with various Aborigines from 1862-1870's; G. Maxwell (see Bentham, 1866); G. Molloy (see Hasluck, 1955); A. Oldfield (see Bentham, 1866 and Chippendale, 1973); von Mueller (1879); B. Bussell in 1834 (see Shann, 1926), and Curr (1886, vol. 1: 374).

Most of the remaining names were collected late last century or early this century. Those from Balbuk, Bardeet, D.M. Bates, Boaburgurt, F.S. Brockman, W. Hymus, E.A.A. Fawcett, R. Scott, Joobaitch, Ngalyart, Ngilgee, W.J. Rae and J. Whitworth remain unpublished, being held at the Battye Library of Western Australian History (File PR 342 and two bound volumes entitled 'Native Vocabularies'). Other names were taken from Bell (see Meagher, 1974), Brockman (see Maiden, 1911, 1913), Chippendale (1973), Davis (1969), Hassell (1936 and unpublished list held by N.G. Marchant), Helms (see Rye and Hopper, 1982), Lane-Poole (see Maiden, 1919; Lane-Poole, 1917, 1919) and Kessell (1922).

It would be pretentious to claim that the list is complete. Other Aboriginal names for plant species are possibly recorded in

early colonial newspapers (not searched), diaries or government files. Publication of the present list will hopefully lead to searches for such information which would no doubt modify or improve this list.

LIST OF ABORIGINAL NAMES FOR PLANT SPECIES

Presentation is as follows: Aboriginal name, reference, current Latin binomial (from Green, 1981), English vernacular (if any), current and obsolete. Spelling of Aboriginal names is as in the original but hyphens between syllables are omitted. The provenance of the names is as follows: Balbuk, Woorurdup near Perth; Bardeet, Kaljingellup near Bridgetown; Bates, South-west; Bell, Mingenew; Boaburgurt, Wonnerup and Capel districts; Brockman, Bridgetown and Margaret River districts; Bunbury, Pinjarra and Vasse; Bussell, Vasse; Curr, between Irwin and Murchison Rivers; Davis, Bibbulmun dialect; Drummond, South-west; Grey, mainly Perth but also Guildford, Pinjarra, Albany and Vasse; Hammond, mainly Perth and Pinjarra but also South-west generally; Hassell, Jerramungup and Albany districts; Helms, Hampton Range; Hymus, Fawcett and Scott, Pinjarra; Joobaitch, Guildford area; Lane-Poole, Bolgart and South-west; Lyon, Perth; Moore, mainly Perth east to York but also Guildford, Albany and Vasse; Ngalyart, Karadup near Pinjarra; Maxwell, southern coast; Ngilgee, Vasse; Nind, Albany; Oldfield, Geraldton to Murchison River; Preiss, mainly Perth and Avon Valley, also Albany; Rae, South-west; Salvado, New Norcia; Symmons, Perth; von Mueller, South-west; Whitworth, Vasse.

Baaluk	Bates, Bardeet	<i>Xanthorrhoea preissii</i> Endl.	Blackboy, Grass Tree
Badjong	von Mueller	<i>Acacia microbotrya</i> Benth.	Manna Wattle
Baian	Ngilgee	<i>Macrozamia riedlei</i> (Fisch. ex Gaud.) C.A. Gardner	Zamia Palm, Zamia

Balga	Balbuk, Boaburgurt, Davis, Grey, Hammond, Joobaitch, Lyon, Moore, Ngalyart, Ngilgee, Salvado, Symmons	see Baaluk	
Balgarr	Bunbury	see Baaluk	
Balligar	Grey	see Baaluk (used at Guildford only)	
Baluk	Grey, Rae	see Baaluk	
Ballak	Moore	see Baaluk	
Balluk	Rae	see Baaluk	
Barar	Grey	see Baaluk (used at Albany only)	
Barlock	Hassell	see Baaluk	
Barro	Grey, Moore	see Baaluk	
Beara	Grey	see Biara	
Beera	Lyon	<i>Banksia grandis</i> Willd.	Bull Banksia
Biara	Moore	<i>Banksia nivifolia</i> . There is no such species. Moore states that it has long narrow leaves, in which case it is probably <i>Banksia attenuata</i> R.Br.	Coast Banksia, Slender Banksia
Binda	Preiss	<i>Synaphea polymorpha</i> R.Br.	
Bindak	Moore	<i>Calothamnus sanguineus</i> Labill.	
Boolgalla	Grey	see Beera	
Boongura	Lyon	<i>Banksia littoralis</i> R.Br.	River Banksia, Swamp Oak
Boorarup	Grey	<i>Xanthorrhoea gracilis</i> Endl.	Slender Blackboy
Boyern	Whitworth	see Baian	
Budjan	Moore	<i>Dryandra sessilis</i> (Knight) Domin	Parrot Bush
Budjan	Preiss	<i>Dryandra nivea</i> (Labill.) R.Br.	Couch Honeypot
Bulgalla	Moore	see Beera	
Bullich	Kessell (1922)	<i>Eucalyptus megacarpa</i> F. Muell.	W.A. Blue Gum (obsolete), Bullich

Bullonock	Hassell	<i>Kingia australis</i> R.Br.	Black Gin
Buno	Preiss	<i>Beaufortia squarrosa</i> Schauer	Sand Bottlebrush
Burarup	Moore	see Boorarup	
Butyak	Moore	see Budjan	
Buyenak	Moore	<i>Hovea pungens</i> Benth.	Devil's Pins
Cherring	Rae	<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> Donn ex Sm.	Swan River Mahogany (obsolete), Jarrah
Chiaragl	Salvado	see Cherring	
Chideok	Hassell	<i>Lambertia inermis</i> R.Br.	Corrupted to Chittick in Erickson <i>et al.</i> 1973
Chuck	Hassell	<i>Exocarpos sparteus</i> R.Br.	Native Cherry
Chukk	Rae	see Chuck	
Colaille	Oldfield (see Bentham, 1866)	<i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> Endl.	River Gum, Flooded Gum, Blue Gum (obsolete)
Condil	Hassell	<i>Allocasuarina</i> <i>fraseriana</i> (Miq.) L. Johnson	She-oak
Condil	Hassell	<i>Kunzea ericifolia</i> (Sm.) Heynh.	
Condrun	Hassell	<i>Astroloma serratifolium</i> (DC.) Druce	
Cujong	Hassell	<i>Acacia saligna</i> (Labill.) H.L. Wendl.	Black Wattle
Coolyar	Hassell	<i>Santalum murrayanum</i> (Mitch.) C.A. Gardner	Bitter Peach
Daarwet	Davis	<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> Benth.	York Gum
Danja	Molloy	<i>Xylomelum occidentale</i> R.Br.	Native Pear
Djarraail	Grey	see Cherring	
Djarryl	Moore	see Cherring	
Djerral	Symmons	see Cherring	
Djiriji	Moore, Symmons	see Baian	
Doatta	Drummond	see Daarwet	
Dooto	Lyon	<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> Blakely	White Gum (obsolescent), Wandoo
Dtulya	Moore	see Chuck	
Dumbung	Moore	see Danja	

Dungyn	Lane-Poole (1917)	<i>Hakea oleifolia</i> (Sm.) R.Br.	
Dwutta	Brockman	<i>Eucalyptus patens</i> Benth.	W.A. Blackbutt, Yarri
Dyergee	Lyon	see Baian	
Dyerral	Lyon	see Cherring	
Galyang	Moore, Symmons	see Badjong	
Galyung	Grey	see Badjong	
Gardan	Moore, Symmons	<i>Eucalyptus calophylla</i> Lindl.	Red Gum (obsolescent), Marri
Geitch-Gmunt	Hassell	<i>Eucalyptus doratoxylon</i> F. Muell.	Spearwood Mallee
Girijee	Grey	see Baian	
Gnow	Hassell	<i>Melaleuca elliptica</i> Labill.	Granite Bottlebrush
Goatta	Drummond	see Daarwet	
Goolee	Curr, Lyon	<i>Casuarina obesa</i> Miq.	Swamp She- oak
Gooloorda	Lyon	see Colaille	
Gooloorto	Grey	see Colaille	
Gulli	Moore, Symmons	see Goolee	
Gulurto	Moore, Symmons	see Colaille	
Gungurru	Helms (see Rye and Hopper, 1982)	<i>Eucalyptus woodwardii</i> Maiden	
Gwangia	Bunbury	see Boongura	
Gyrdan	Grey, Lyon	see Gardan	
Illyarie	Oldfield (see Bentham, 1866)	<i>Eucalyptus erythrocorys</i> F.Muell.	Illyarrie
Janjin	Moore, Symmons	see Danja	
Jarnockmert	Hassell	<i>Hakea recurva</i> Meisn.	
Jarrah	Rae	see Cherring	
Jarral	Balbuk	see Cherring	
Jarril	Hassell, Hymus et al.	see Cherring	
Jarraly	Davis	see Cherring	
Jeerajee	Balbuk, Joobaitch, Ngalyart	see Baian	
Jeeriji	Bardeet	see Baian	
Jeerilya	Boaburgurt	see Cherring	
Jeerja	Joobaitch	see Baian	
Jeril	Whitworth	see Cherring	

Jerral	Joobaitch, Ngalyart	see Cherring	
Jerrail	Ngilgee	see Cherring	
Jerril	Bardeet	see Cherring	
Jerryl	Hymus et al.	see Cherring	
Kabbur	Preiss	<i>Jacksonia sternbergiana</i> Huegel	Stinkwood
Kaly	Moore	<i>Chorizema cordatum</i> Lindl.	Heartleaf, Flame Pea
Kanna	Preiss	<i>Platysace cirrosa</i> Bunge	
Kapbur	Moore	see Kabbur	
Kardan	Grey, Ngalyart	see Gardan	
Karno	Bell (in Meagher 1974)	<i>Platysace maxwellii</i> (F. Muell.) Norman	Native Potato
Karri	von Mueller	<i>Eucalyptus diversicolor</i> F. Muell.	Blue Gum (obsolete), Karri
Karril	Hassell	see Karri	
Kerbein	Preiss	<i>Lepidosperma</i> <i>gladiatum</i> Labill.	Coast Sword Sedge
Kojet	Hassell	<i>Hakea laurina</i> R.Br.	Pincushion Hakea
Kolbogo	Grey, Moore	<i>Carpobrotus virescens</i> (Haw.) Schwantes	
Kolboje	Preiss	see Kolbogo	
Komma	Moore, Preiss	<i>Patersonia occidentalis</i> R.Br.	
Koodgeed	Grey	<i>Hypocalymma</i> <i>angustifolium</i> Endl.	
Koolah	Hammond	<i>Podocarpus drouyniana</i> F. Muell.	Native Plum
Koolert	Joobaitch	see Colaille	
Koondagoor	Grey	see Baian	
Koonert	Grey	see Badjong	
Koongal	Balbuk	see Dumbung	
Koorlee	Ngalyart	see Goolee	
Koorpa	Brockman	see Kapbur	
Koroylbardang	Moore	<i>Anigozanthos viridis</i> Endl.	Swamp Kangaroo Paw
Kotyeningara	Moore	<i>Verticordia nitens</i> (Lindl.) Schauer	Morrison Featherflower
Koweda	Moore, Symmons	<i>Viminaria juncea</i> (Schrad. and Wendl.) Hoffmanns.	Golden Spray
Kower	Moore	see Koweda	

Krulbrang	Preiss	<i>Anigozanthos manglesii</i> D.Don	Mangle's Kangaroo Paw
Kudjidi	Moore	see Koodgeed	
Kunart	Moore	see Badjong	
Kundagur	Moore	see Baian	
Kurrden	Davis	see Gardan	
Kwel	Bardeet	see Goolee	
Kwela	Balbuk, Moore	see Goolee	
Kweela	Boaburgurt, Ngilgee	see Goolee	
Kwella	Joobaitch	see Goolee	
Kwelly	Davis	see Goolee	
Kwerl	Bates	see Goolee	
Kwonnat	Moore	see Badjong	
Kwýtyat	Moore	<i>Melaleuca uncinata</i> R.Br.	Broom Honey- myrtle, Broom Bush
Maalok	Maxwell (in Bentham, 1866)	<i>Eucalyptus platypus</i> Hooker	Moort
Madja	Moore	<i>Haemodorum paniculatum</i> Lindl.	
Mallalie	Oldfield (see Gardner and Aplin, 1979)	<i>Eucalyptus eudesmioides</i> F.Muell.	
Mallat	Moore	<i>Eucalyptus astringens</i> (Maiden) Maiden	Brown Mallet
Mangart	Grey	<i>Acacia acuminata</i> Benth.	Raspberry Jam Tree (obsolete), Jam
Manjart	Preiss	see Mangart	
Mano	Preiss	<i>Daviesia divaricata</i> Benth.	
Maree	Boaburgurt, Ngilgee	see Gardan	
Mahree	Whitworth	see Gardan	
Marree	Brockman	see Gardan	
Marri	Hassell	see Gardan	
Marril	Rae	see Gardan	
Marro	Preiss	<i>Callitris preissii</i> Miq.	Rottnest Island Pine
Matje	Preiss	<i>Haemodorum spicatum</i> R.Br.	
Memede	Grey	see Boorarup	
Men	Hassell	see Badjong	

Menna	Preiss	see Badjong	
Merrin	Hassell	see Chuck	
Merrit	Kessell (1922)	<i>Eucalyptus flocktoniae</i> (Maiden) Maiden	
Metjarak	Moore	see Kolbogo (used at Toodyay only)	
Mimidi	Moore, Symmons	see Boorarup	
Mindiyet	Hassell	<i>Melaleuca nesophila</i> F.Muell.	
Mirret	Lane-Poole (1919)	<i>Eucalyptus celastroides</i> Turcz.	
Mo	Hassell	<i>Eucalyptus occidentalis</i> Endl.	Flat-topped Yate, Swamp Yate
Mo	Rae	<i>Eucalyptus cornuta</i> (Labill.)	Yate
Moitch	Bardeet, Hassell Chippendale	see Colaille	
Moja	Ngilgee	see Colaille	
Mondil	Hassell	see Kapbur	
Mondurn	Bates	see Kapbur	
Moodgar	Davis	<i>Nuytsia floribunda</i> (Labill.) R.Br. ex Fenzl	Cabbage Tree (obsolete), W.A. Christmas Tree
Moojar	Balbuk, Bardeet, Brockman, Jobaitch, Ngilgee	see Moodgar	
Moojara	Boaburgurt	see Moodgar	
Moojerool	Hymus et al.	see Moodgar	
Moojoor	Ngalyart	see Moodgar	
Moojoora	Boaburgurt	see Moodgar	
Moondan- gurnang	Lyon	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> (L.) Kuhn	Bracken
Mootcheroo	Hymus et al.	see Moodgar	
Moort	Hassell	see Maalok	
Moorun	Whitworth	<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i> DC.	White Gum (obsolete), Tuart
Morl	Hassell	see Dwutta	
Morryl	Moore	<i>Eucalyptus longicornis</i> (F.Muell.) F.Muell. ex .Maiden	Red Morrel
Mottlecar	Lane-Poole (see Maiden 1919)	<i>Eucalyptus macrocarpa</i> Hook.	Mottlecah
Mouarn	Brockman	see Moorun	

Mudja	Grey	see Madja	
Mundup	Hymus et al.	see Gardan	
Munert	Hassell	see Mangart	
Munertor	Rae	see Mangart	
Mungat	Rae	see Mangart	
Mungart	Davis, Joobaitch	see Mangart	
Mungaitch	Bates	see Mangart	
Mungut	Hassell	see Mangart	
Munjah	Hassell	see Moodgar	
Munnja	Rae	see Moodgar	
Mutdhoor	Lyon	see Moodgar	
Mutyal	Moore, Symmons	see Moodgar	
Myallie	Chippendale	see Mallalie	
Nandap	Moore	see Gardan	
Nandup	Grey	see Gardan	
Netic	Lane-Poole (1917)	<i>Bossiaea aquifolium</i> Benth.	Water Bush
Ngora	Boaburgurt	see Gardan	
Ngumbat	Preiss	see Gardan	
Ngyameng- yaming	Moore	<i>Helipterum manglesii</i> (Lindl.) Benth.	Pink Sunray
Paaluc	Nind	see Baaluk	
Pajang	Preiss	<i>Acacia lasiocarpa</i> Benth.	
Paluk	Grey	see Baaluk	
Peera	Grey	see Biara (used at Albany only)	
Pira	Moore	see Biara (used at Albany only)	
Pondil	Hassell	see Condil (under <i>Kunzea ericifolia</i>)	
Poot	Hassell	see Morryl	
Put	Rae	see Morryl	
Quail	Hassell	<i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> (Miq.) L. Johnson	Rock She -oak
Quarral	Hassell	<i>Eucalyptus angulosa</i> Schauer	Ridge-fruited Mallee
Queeda	Brockman	see Goolee	
Queitjat	Preiss	<i>Calothamnus</i> <i>quadrifidus</i> R.Br.	One-sided Bottlebrush
Quilnock	Hassell	see Goolee	
Quinine	Hassell (1936)	see Baian	
Quinning	Hassell	see Baian	

Tallyongut	Hassell	<i>Hakea victoria</i> Drumm.	Royal Hakea
Talyerock	Hassell	<i>Eucalyptus tetragona</i> (R.Br.) F.Muell.	Tallerack, White- leaved Marlock (obsolete)
Tanjil	Hassell	<i>Typha domingensis</i> Pers.	Bullrush
Tanjinn	Rae	<i>Hakea preissii</i> Meisn.	Needle Tree
Tilyar	Hassell	<i>Oxylobium parviflorum</i> Benth.	Box Poison
Tingle Tingle	Brockman (see Maiden 1911, 1913)	<i>Eucalyptus guilfoylei</i> Maiden <i>E. jacksonii</i> Maiden	Yellow Tingle Red Tingle
Tooart	Bunbury, Bussell	see Moorun	
Toolyumuck	Hassell	<i>Eucalyptus falcata</i> Turcz.	Silver Mallet
Tuart	Moore	see Moorun	
Tubada	Preiss	<i>Callistemon phoeniceus</i> Lindl.	Lesser Bottlebrush
Twet	Hassell	<i>Eucalyptus macrandra</i> F.Muell. ex Benth.	Long-flowered Marlock
Twotta	Moore	see Daarwet	
Uilarac	Salvado	<i>Santalum spicatum</i> (R.Br.) A.DC.	Sandalwood
Waang	Bardeet	see Uilarac	
Waiyu	Grey	see Bullonock	
Wando	Moore, Symmons	see Dooto	
Wandoo	Hymus et al.	see Dooto	
Waljumei	Preiss	<i>Jacksonia sericea</i> Benth.	
Wanga	Ngalyart	<i>Santalum acuminatum</i> (R.Br.) A.DC.	Vasse Apple (obsolete), Native Peach, Quandong
Wanil	Hassell	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i> (Spreng.) Schauer	W.A. Peppermint
Wanill	Rae	see Wanil	
Waning	Hassell	<i>Dodonaea attenuata</i> A.Cunn.	Native Hop, Treacle Bush
Warran	Moore	<i>Dioscorea hastifolia</i> Endl.	Spear-leaved Dioscorea
Warrein	Preiss	see Warran	
Warrnt	Davis	see Dooto	
Wawnt	Rae	see Dooto	
Weerluk	Davis	<i>Eucalyptus</i> <i>salmonophloia</i> F.Muell.	Salmon Gum

Willarak	Moore	see Uilarac	
Wilyurwur	Hassell	<i>Acacia lasiocalyx</i> C. Andrews	Silver Wattle
Woacol	Hassell	<i>Eucalyptus gardneri</i> Maiden	Blue Mallet
Wolgol	Hassell	see Uilarac	
Wollgat	Rae	see Uilarac	
Wolung	Hassell	see Daarwet	
Wong	Rae	see Wanga	
Wongil	Hassell	see Wanga	
Wonich	Hassell	<i>Oxylobium lanceolatum</i> (Vent.) Druce	Willow
Wonyill	Rae	see Wanga	
Woonert	Davis, Hassell	see Mallat	
Wonnow	Brockman	see Wanill	
Wonong	Whitworth	see Wanill	
Wornt	Hassell	see Dooto	
Wungal	Jobaitch	see Wanga	
Wurak	Moore, Symmons	see Weerluk (note that Symmons calls this "York Gum Tree")	
Wurnert	Rae	see Mallat	
Wurukk	Rae	see Weerluk	
Yandee	Oldfield (in Bentham, 1866)	see Daarwet	
Yandijut	Drummond	see Tanjil	
Yandil	Hassell	see Mo (entry under Rae)	
Yanget	Davis	see Tanjil	
Yanjidi	Moore	see Tanjil	
Yarra	von Mueller	see Cherring	
Yate	von Mueller	see Mo (entry under Rae)	
Yeit	Oldfield (in Bentham, 1866)	see Mo (entry under Rae)	
Yilberra	Hassell	see Kwytat	
Yook	Hassell	see Karno	
Youk	Hassell (1936)	see Karno	
Yundill	Rae	see Mo (entry under Hassell); Rae lists as White Yate	
Yunjeedie	Grey	see Tanjil	
Yunjid	Grey	see Tanjil	

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF ABORIGINAL NAMES FOR PLANT SPECIES

The following list includes Aboriginal names for plant species whose primary source is unknown to me.

Boongul	<i>Eucalyptus transcontinentalis</i> Maiden	Blackall & Grieve, 1980
Boree	<i>Melaleuca sheathiana</i> W.V. Fitzg.	Erickson <i>et al.</i> , 1973
Breelya	<i>Gastrolobium laytonii</i> J. White	Blackall & Grieve, 1954
Coorup	<i>Billardiera lehmanniana</i> F.Muell.	Erickson <i>et al.</i> , 1973
Mulla Mulla	<i>Ptilotus manglesii</i> (Lindl.) F.Muell. Oldfield collected von Mueller's specimens, so it is likely Oldfield recorded the name.	Blackall & Grieve, 1954
Pingle	<i>Dryandra carduacea</i> Lindl.	Erickson <i>et al.</i> , 1973
Wattie	<i>Agonis juniperina</i> Schauer Other common names are Native Cedar or Cedar.	Erickson <i>et al.</i> , 1973
Yarri	<i>Eucalyptus patens</i> Benth. This species was referred to as Blackbutt by Lane-Poole (1921).	J. Havel, Forests Dept, W. A.
Yorrell	<i>Eucalyptus gracilis</i> F.Muell. Yorrell is not Aboriginal, as Maiden (1915) states that H.F. Johnston coined the word for a supposed hybrid between York Gum and Morrell.	

The name Banjine seems indefinite, as it cannot be applied to any particular species.

DISCUSSION

SCOPE OF THE LIST

As expected, the list covers most of the tree species occurring between Perth and Albany. Aboriginal names of most other plant species have either not been recorded or when they were, insufficient description was provided so that it is now not possible to attach the current scientific name to the Aboriginal word. Examples of this, from Grey and Moore, are: Bewel, the paperbark tree; Dyanda, a species of *Hakea*; Modyart, "a species of eucalyptus; colonially called cedar. It works more kindly than the mahogany, and is preferred for cabinet work, as being lighter. It is not abundant." Nardarak, a species of eucalypt with a stem like clustered pillars; Nelarak, a species of eucalypt with pale yellow-coloured bark, and Pulbarn, *Kennedia* sp.

Grey and Moore list many other Aboriginal botanical terms, referring to the bark, flowers and fruits of identifiable species. These names, however, fall outside the scope of this paper.

INADEQUACIES AND ERRORS

When several authorities independently provide the same name for a plant species, we can feel confident that it does refer to that species. Examples are Balga, Djiriji, Gardan, Gulli, Jarrah, Tuart, Twotta and Willarac. When only one name is given we obviously have no way of confirming the name. When two different names are given for the one species, we are left with several possibilities - that they refer to different species, that one name refers to a particular part (e.g. the trunk), depending on what the European was pointing at, or that they do refer to the same species but are names used by different tribes. I have avoided applying Aboriginal names for part of a plant (e.g. root, berry) to the whole plant, although in some cases authorities contradict each other. Thus Moore (1842) wrote that Warran is "One of the Dioscoreae. A species of yam ..." but Hammond (1933) stated that Warryn "was a white root". Another example is Badjong, which was stated by Bates (1914) to refer to both the edible gum and the tree from which the gum is obtained.

A complete list of South-western Australian Aboriginal names for edible parts of plants is given by Meagher (1974). Some names are spelled similarly but are stated to refer to different species. For example, Moore states that Biara is *Banksia nivifolia* (probably referable to *B. attenuata*) whereas Lyon states that Beera is *Banksia grandis*. Because Moore and Grey state that *B. grandis* is Bulgalla or Boolgalla, it appears that Lyon incorrectly identified the species of *Banksia*. Another example is Mo, used by Hassell to refer to *Eucalyptus occidentalis* and Rae to *E. cornuta*.

Other inconsistencies appear because different Aborigines could pronounce the same word slightly differently, and different Europeans, because of the way they speak and hear sounds, could record the same Aboriginal word in slightly different ways. A good example is the different spellings used for Jarrah. Salvado's spellings are most distinctive, probably because he was a Spaniard writing in Italian (Stormon, 1977).

ADOPTION OF ABORIGINAL NAMES AS ENGLISH VERNACULARS

Several of the Aboriginal words listed would make very apt common names for plant species. Examples are Balga, Djiriji, Gulli, Gulurto, Mutyal, Twotta and Willarac. This would only extend a firmly established practice of using Aboriginal names, e.g. Jarrah, Morrel, Wandoo, Tuart, Karri and Mallet. In the first few decades of settlement in Western Australia many unsatisfactory English common names were in use. Thus, Irwin, Bunbury, Grey, Lyon and Salvado all refer to Jarrah as Mahogany. Lane-Poole (1921) noted that about 1860 the name was altered to Jarrah, 'as it was generally recognized that this was a better timber than mahogany, and that it had so many fine qualities that it deserved a name of its own.' I have been unable to trace who was responsible for this decision. Altering some of the present English names, which have little to commend them, would only be acting on this precedent. Lane-Poole was also responsible for promoting the use of Marri instead of Redgum, and the use of other Aboriginal names (see list above). He wrote "Following the decision of the Forestry Conference, in order to avoid confusion with Murray River redgum (*Eucalyptus rostrata*), Western Australian redgum will in future be called "marri" in all official publications. Marri is the aboriginal name." (Lane-Poole, 1920).

Lane-Poole's logic and procedure seem also applicable to Flooded Gum (confused with *Eucalyptus grandis*), Blackbutt (confused with *E. pilularis*) and She-oak (of which there are many species).

It is relevant to note that many of the vernacular names of mammals derive from Aboriginal names - for example, Bettong, Chuditch, Koala, Numbat, Quenda, Quokka, Quoll, Tammar, Woillie and Wombat. This is no doubt because the Aboriginal terms are more apposite than clumsy vernaculars such as Native Bear, Marsupial Mouse, Native Cat and Kangaroo Rat.

Two difficulties with recommending Aboriginal names for use as common names are that some names may have had totemic significance so that the same species had different names according to circumstance (Mansergh and Hercus, 1981), and the same species present in different tribal areas may not have the same name. The Aborigines living at New Norcia, Perth, York, Pinjarra, Busselton, Bridgetown and Jerramungup belonged to different tribes (Tindale, 1974). Thus, around Perth and Pinjarra, *Eucalyptus calophylla* was called Gardan or Nandap but at Vasse, Bridgetown and Jerramungup it was known as Marri. *Macrozamia riedlei* was known as Djiriji at Perth, Pinjarra and Bridgetown, Baian at Vasse, and Quinning at Jerramungup. The choice of one of these names for general use would probably need to be based on euphony and brevity. Some adjustment of spelling would also be necessary, to conform with orthographic conventions of anthropologists (e.g. Douglas, 1976).

SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION

Certain sounds cannot be rendered accurately in English (Glauert, 1950). B or P, D or T, C or K, G or K were often used interchangeably. Examination of the word lists of Grey, Symmons, Moore, Lyon, Nind, Salvado, Hammond and Glauert show that the main consonants used were B(P), C(K), D(T), G,M,N,Q,W and Y. According to Grey, G = K (hard), D = T = TD = DTH, J = TJ, M = MH, P = B = BH and Q = KW. Vowels were used rarely to begin words. Useful discussion about accurate pronunciation of aboriginal words is given by Grey (1840), Moore (1842), Bates (1914) and Douglas (1976). The first syllable only is stressed. Consonants are sounded mainly as in English, except that ng sounds as in ring. Vowels are sounded as

follows: a as in father, e as in met, i as in bib, o as in low, and u as in put. Thus numbat should be pronounced as noombart.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank J.J. Havel, N.G. Marchant, F.H. McKinnell and an anonymous referee for helpful comments. N.G. Marchant kindly made available E.A. Hassell's list of names.

REFERENCES

- BATES, D.M. (1914). A few notes on some South-western Australian dialects. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, 44, 65-82.
- BENTHAM, G. and MUELLER, F. Baron von (1866). *Flora Australiensis: A Description of the Plants of the Australian Territory*, Vol. 3, L. Reeve & Co., London.
- BLACKALL, W.E. and GRIEVE, B.J. (1954). *How to know Western Australian Wildflowers*. Part I. University of W.A. Press, Perth.
- BLACKALL, W.E. and GRIEVE, B.J. (1980). *How to know Western Australian Wildflowers*. Part IIIA. University of W.A. Press, Perth.
- BUNBURY, W. ST P. and MORRELL, W.P. (eds) (1930). *Early days in Western Australia, being the letters and journal of Lieut. H.W. Bunbury, 21st Fusiliers*. Oxford University Press, London.
- CHIPPENDALE, G.M. (1973). *Eucalypts of the Western Australian Goldfields (and the adjacent wheatbelt)*. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.
- CRAWFORD, I.M. (1982). Traditional Aboriginal plant resources in the Kalumburu area: aspects in ethno-economics. *Records of the West Australian Museum*, Supplement, Vol. 15, 1-86.
- CURR, E.M. (1886-7). *The Australian race: its origin, languages, customs, place of landing in Australia, and the routes by which it spread itself over that continent*. 4 volumes. Government Printer, Melbourne.
- DAVIS, J. (1969). *A study of the Bibbulmun dialect*. W.A. Aboriginal Association, Perth Art Printing Co.
- DIAMOND, J.M. (1966). Zoological classification system of a primitive people. *Science*, 151, New York, 1102-1104.
- DOUGLAS, W.H. (1976). *The Aboriginal languages of the South-west of Australia*. Regional and Research Studies 9. 2nd edition, Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra.
- ERICKSON, R., GEORGE, A.S., MARCHANT, N.G. and MORCOMBE, M.K. (1973). *Flowers and plants of Western Australia*. A.H. & A.W. Reed, Sydney.
- GARDNER, C.A. Revised by APLIN, T.E.H. (1979). Eucalypts of Western Australia. *Bulletin of the Western Australian Department of Agriculture* No. 4013, 1-260.
- GLAUERT, L. (1950). Provisional list of aboriginal place names and their meanings. *Western Australian Historical Society Journal and Proceedings*, 4(2), 83-86.

- GREEN, J.W. (1981). *Census of the vascular plants of Western Australia*. Western Australian Herbarium, Department of Agriculture, South Perth.
- GREY, G. (1840). *A vocabulary of the dialects of South Western Australia*. 2nd edition, T. & W. Boone, London.
- GREY, G. (1841). *Journals of two expeditions of discovery in North-west and Western Australia, during the years 1837, 38 and 39, ...* Volume 1, T. & W. Boone, London.
- HAMMOND, J.E. (1933). *Winjan's People: The Story of the South-west Aborigines*, ed, Hasluck, P., Imperial Printing Co. Ltd., Perth.
- HASLUCK, A. (1966). *Portrait with Background: A Life of Georgiana Molloy*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- HASSELL, E. (1936). Notes on the ethnology of the wheelman Tribe of South-western Australia. *Anthropos*, 31, 679-711.
- HELMS, R. (1896). Anthropology. *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, 16, 237-332.
- IRWIN, F.C. (1835). *The state and position of Western Australia; commonly called the Swan-River Settlement*. Simpkin, Marshall, London.
- KESSELL, S.L. (1922). *Annual Report of the Forests Department for the year ended 30th June, 1922*. Government Printer, Perth.
- LANE-POOLE, C.E. (1917). *Annual Report of the Woods and Forests Department of Western Australia for the year ending 31st December, 1916*. Government Printer, Perth.
- LANE-POOLE, C.E. (1919). *Annual Report of the Woods and Forests Department of Western Australia for the year ended 31st December, 1917*. Government Printer, Perth.
- LANE-POOLE, C.E. (1920). *Annual Report of the Forests Department of Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1920*. Government Printer, Perth.
- LANE-POOLE, C.E. (1921). Notes on the forests and forest products and industries of Western Australia. *Bulletin 2, Forests Department of Western Australia*.
- LEHMANN, C. (1837-41). *Plantae Preissianae...2 Vols*. Hamburg, Meissner.
- LYON, R.M. (1833). A glance at the manners and language of the aboriginal inhabitants of Western Australia; with a short vocabulary. *Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal (Newspaper)* 30 March, 6 April, 13 May, 20 May.
- MAIDEN, J.H. (1911). Notes on Western Australian Eucalyptus, including descriptions of new species. *Journal of the Natural History and Science Society of Western Australia*, 3, 165-190.
- MAIDEN, J.H. (1913). Notes on Eucalyptus (with descriptions of new species) No. II. *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales*, 47, 217-235.

- MAIDEN, J.H. (1915). Notes on Eucalyptus (with descriptions of new species) No. IV. *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales*, 49, 309-331.
- MAIDEN, J.H. (1919). Notes on Eucalyptus, No. VII. *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales*, 53, 57-73.
- MANSERGH, I. and HERCUS, L. A. (1981). An Aboriginal vocabulary of the fauna of Gippsland. *Memoirs of the National Museum of Victoria*, 42, (2), 107-122.
- MEAGHER, S.J. (1974). The food resources of the aborigines of the South-west of Western Australia. *Records of the Western Australian Museum*, 3, (1), 14-65.
- MOORE, G.F. (1842). *A descriptive vocabulary of the language in common use amongst the aborigines of Western Australia; with copious meanings, embodying much interesting information regarding the habits, manners and customs of the natives and the natural history of the country.* W.M.S. Orr, London.
- NIND, S. (1831). Description of the natives of King George's Sound (Swan River Colony) and adjoining country. *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London*, 1, 21-51.
- PIKE, D. (ed.) (1966). *AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY*, Volume 1, 1788-1850, A-H. Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
- PIKE, D. (ed.) (1967). *AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY*, Volume 2, 1788-1850, I-Z. Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
- RYE, B.L. and HOPPER, S.D. (1982). Misapplication of the Aboriginal name "Gungurru" to *Eucalyptus caesia* Benth. and notes on the species' distribution. *Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia*, 65, (3), 93-95.
- SALVADO, R. (1851). *Memorie Storiche dell' Australia particolarmente della Missione Benedettina di Nuova Norcia.* Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Rome.
- SHANN, E.O.G. (1926). *Cattle Chosen: The story of the first Group Settlement in Western Australia - 1829 to 1841.* Oxford University Press, London.
- SPECHT, R.L. (1958). An introduction to the ethno-botany of Arnhem Land. *Records of the American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land*, 3, 479-503, (R.L. Specht and C.P. Mountford, eds.) University Press, Melbourne.
- STORMON, E.J. (trans. and ed.) (1977). *The Salvado memoirs.* (English translation of Salvado, 1851). University of Western Australia Press, Perth.
- SYMMONS, C. (1841). *Grammatical introduction to the study of the Aboriginal language of Western Australia.* West Australian Almanac, Perth.

- TINDALE, N.B. (1974). *Aboriginal tribes of Australia: their terrain, environmental controls, distribution, limits, and proper names.* Australian National University Press, Canberra.
- VON MUELLER, F. Baron. (1879). Report on the forest resources of Western Australia. *General information respecting the present condition of the forests, (1882).* Reeve & Co., London.
- WOOD, M.E. (1943). First contacts made with Western Australian natives. *Early Days, Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Historical Society of Western Australia, 3, 34-42.*
- WORSLEY, P. (1961). The utilization of natural food resources by an Australian aboriginal tribe. *Acta Ethnographica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae 10, 153-190.*

APPENDIX

PROVISIONAL LIST OF ABORIGINAL PLANT NAMES FOR COMMON USE

It seems desirable that we extend the use of Aboriginal names for native flora in Western Australia wherever feasible to do so. This is partly because those names are more appropriate than the often clumsy European names, and partly as a tribute to the original inhabitants.

However, any provisional list of standard Aboriginal names immediately comes up against the problem of multiple Aboriginal names for the same species, as discussed previously. The following list has been derived on the basis of a sympathetic reading of the available evidence on names, but with an eye to practicality in common use. The spelling system adopted is phonetic. It is a matter for discussion whether the spelling of Aboriginal names already in use (e.g. jarrah, karri) should be altered to conform more closely with the spelling system used by anthropologists. Although there is no distinction between d and t, b and p, or g and k, the consistent use of d, p and k has been preferred.

It is stressed that this is a provisional list and constructive, documented suggestions for modification or extension are invited.

Latin name	Recommended Aboriginal Name (tentative phonetic rendering)
<i>Acacia acuminata</i>	Mangard
<i>A. lasiocalyx</i>	Wilyurwur
<i>A. lasiocarpa</i>	Padjang
<i>A. microbotrya</i>	Kalyang
<i>A. saligna</i>	Kudjong
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	Wonil
<i>A. juniperina</i>	Wodi
<i>Allocasuarina fraserana</i>	Kondil
<i>A. huegeliana</i>	Kwowl
<i>Anigozanthos manglesii</i>	Kurulbrang

Latin name	Recommended Aboriginal Name (tentative phonetic rendering)
<i>A. viridis</i>	Kurulbardang
<i>Astroloma serratifolium</i>	Kondrung
<i>Banksia attenuata</i>	Piara
<i>B. grandis</i>	Pulgarla
<i>B. littoralis</i>	Pungura
<i>Beaufortia squarrosa</i>	Puno
<i>Billardiera lehmanniana</i>	Kurup
<i>Bossiaea aquifolium</i>	Nedik
<i>Callistemon phoeniceus</i>	Dubarda
<i>Callitris preissii</i>	Maro
<i>Calothamnus quadrifidus</i>	Kwoddjard
<i>C. sanguineus</i>	Pindak
<i>Carpobrotus virescens</i>	Kolboko
<i>Casuarina obesa</i>	Kuli
<i>Chorizema cordatum</i>	Karlya
<i>Daviesia divaricata</i>	Marno
<i>Dioscorea hastifolia</i>	Wararn
<i>Dodonaea attenuata</i>	Warning
<i>Dryandra carduacea</i>	Pinguri
<i>D. nivea</i>	Pudjarn
<i>D. sessilis</i>	Pudjak
<i>Eucalyptus angulosa</i>	Kwararl
<i>E. astringens</i>	Malard
<i>E. calophylla</i>	Mari
<i>E. celastroides</i>	Mired
<i>E. cornuta</i>	Yeid
<i>E. diversicolor</i>	Kari
<i>E. doratoxylon</i>	Keidjngund
<i>E. erythrocorys</i>	Ilyari
<i>E. eudesmioides</i>	Marlarli
<i>E. falcata</i>	Dulyumuk
<i>E. flocktoniae</i>	Merid
<i>E. gardneri</i>	Kwoakol
<i>E. gomphocephala</i>	Duart
<i>E. guilfoylei</i>]	
<i>E. jacksonii</i>]	Dingul Dingul
<i>E. longicornis</i>	Moril

Latin name	Recommended Aboriginal Name (tentative phonetic rendering)
<i>E. loxophleba</i>	Dwoda
<i>E. macrandra</i>	Dwed
<i>E. macrocarpa</i>	Mudelka
<i>E. marginata</i>	Djara
<i>E. megacarpa</i>	Pulidj
<i>E. occidentalis</i>	Moidj
<i>E. patens</i>	Dwuda
<i>E. platypus</i>	Murd
<i>E. rudis</i>	Kulurda
<i>E. salmonophloia</i>	Wurak
<i>E. tetragona</i>	Dalyeruk
<i>E. transcontinentalis</i>	Pungul
<i>E. wandoo</i>	Wondu
<i>E. woodwardii</i>	Gunguru
<i>Exocarpos sparteus</i>	Djuk
<i>Gastrolobium laytonii</i>	Prilya
<i>Haemodorum paniculatum</i>]	
<i>H. spicatum</i>]	Mardja
<i>Hakea laurina</i>	Kodjet
<i>H. oleifolia</i>	Dungyn
<i>H. preissii</i>	Dandjin
<i>H. recurva</i>	Djarnokmurd
<i>H. victoria</i>	Dalyongurd
<i>Helipterum manglesii</i>	Ngyamingyaming
<i>Hovea pungens</i>	Puyenak
<i>Hypocalymma angustifolium</i>	Kudjid
<i>Jacksonia sericea</i>	Waldjumi
<i>J. sternbergiana</i>	Kapur
<i>Kingia australis</i>	Pulonok
<i>Kunzea ericifolia</i>	Pondil
<i>Lambertia inermis</i>	Djidiok
<i>Lepidosperma gladiatum</i>	Kerbin
<i>Macrozamia riedlei</i>	Djiridji
<i>Melaleuca elliptica</i>	Ngow
<i>M. nesophila</i>	Mindiye
<i>M. sheathiana</i>	Buri
<i>M. uncinata</i>	Kwidjard

Latin name	Recommended Aboriginal Name (tentative phonetic rendering)
<i>Nuytsia floribunda</i>	Mudja
<i>Oxylobium lanceolatum</i>	Wonidj
<i>O. parviflorum</i>	Dilya
<i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>	Koma
<i>Platysace cirrosa</i>	Karna
<i>P. maxwellii</i>	Karno
<i>Podocarpus drouyniana</i>	Kula
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Mundangurnang
<i>Ptilotus manglesii</i>	Mulamula
<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>	Warnga
<i>S. murrayanum</i>	Kulya
<i>S. spicatum</i>	Wilarak
<i>Synaphea polymorpha</i>	Pinda
<i>Typha domingensis</i>	Djandjid
<i>Xanthorrhoea gracilis</i>	Mimidi
<i>X. preissii</i>	Palga
<i>Xylomelum occidentale</i>	Djandjin
<i>Verticordia nitens</i>	Kodjeningara
<i>Viminaria juncea</i>	Koweda