PART IV

VEGETATION MAP OF THE DRYSDALE RIVER NATIONAL PARK

By F. G. SMITH[1]

MAP PREPARATION

The vegetation map was prepared from air photo interpretation, checked by helicopter traverses of the park. The classifications used follow those of the Western Australian Vegetation Mapping Committee as used by Smith for the 1:250 000 vegetation maps, Pemberton-Irwin Inlet, Augusta-Busselton and Collie.

Vegetation has been mapped on the basis of structural criteria of the tallest stratum. Criteria used in the structural classification are life-form, height and density. There are three height classes for trees—over 30 m, 10 to 30 m, and under 10 m. There are two height classes for shrubs—over 2 m, and up to 2 m. Herbs, which include grasses, sedges and hummock grasses, form another life-form class.

There are four density classes based on projective foliage cover. Crown area cover is not used, because it does not allow for the difference in the amount of light passing through the canopy of forests of similar crown cover but vastly different foliage cover. Because the amount of light passing through the main or top canopy has a big influence on the structure of the understorey, the use of projective foliage cover should give a better basis of comparison of plant formations. However, projective foliage cover is exceedingly difficult to estimate with any exactitude in the more open formations.

Considerable difficulty in classification was experienced because much of the woodland in the area is about 10 m high and could be either Low Woodland or Low Open-Forest up to 10 m or Woodland or Open-Forest over 10 m. high. Similarly, the foliage cover of the upper storey is about 30 per cent, making it difficult to access whether it is Open-Forest or Woodland.

Floristic descriptions of the formations recorded at each collecting site are provided in Part III of this bulletin. The sites are marked on the vegetation map. It should be noted that a formation as mapped will tend to contain small areas of other formations whose areas are too small to be mapped. These are described for each site in Part III.

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REFERENCE

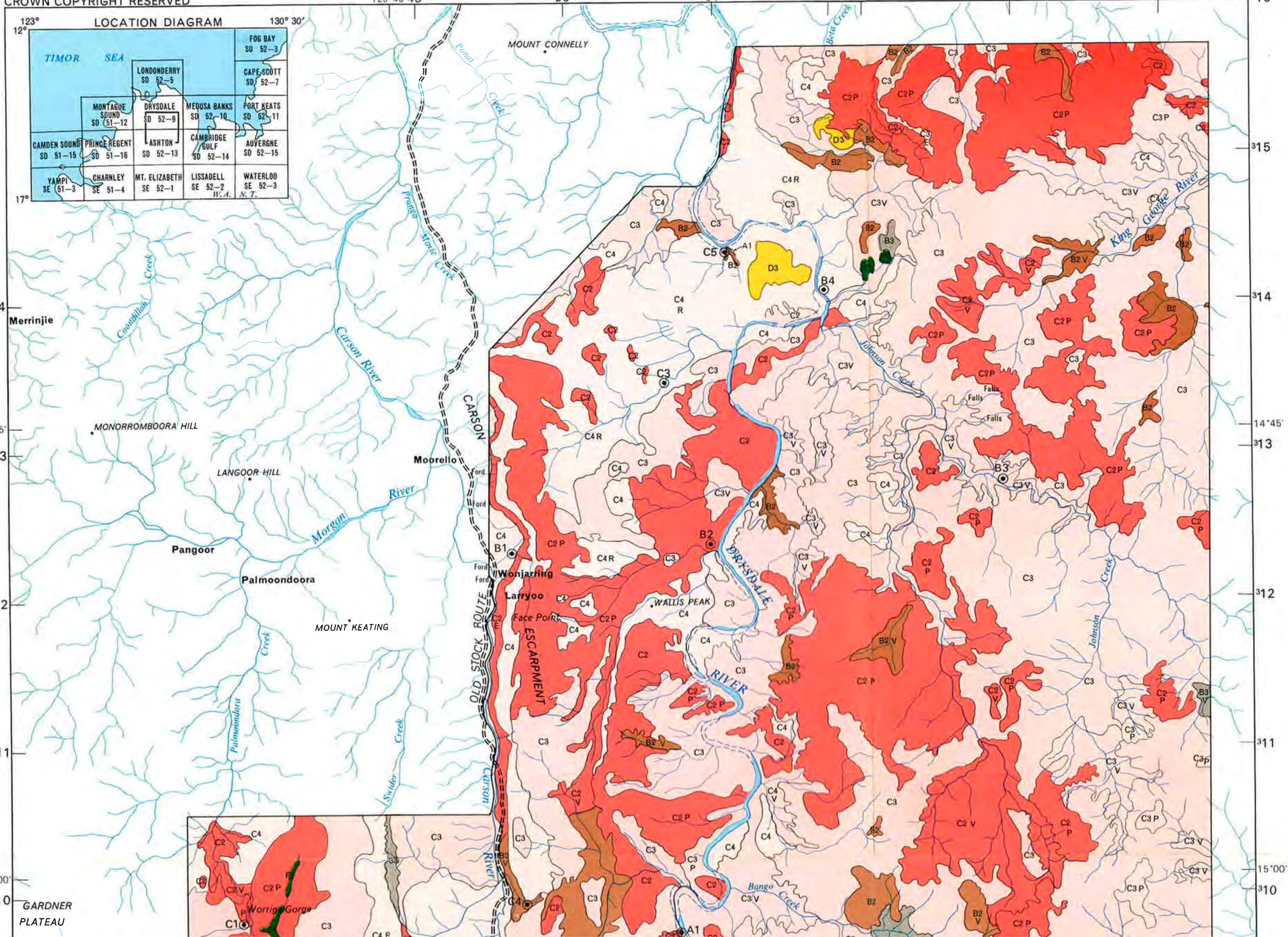
Smith, F. G. (1972). Vegetation Map: Pemberton-Irwin Inlet. W. Aust. Department of Agriculture.

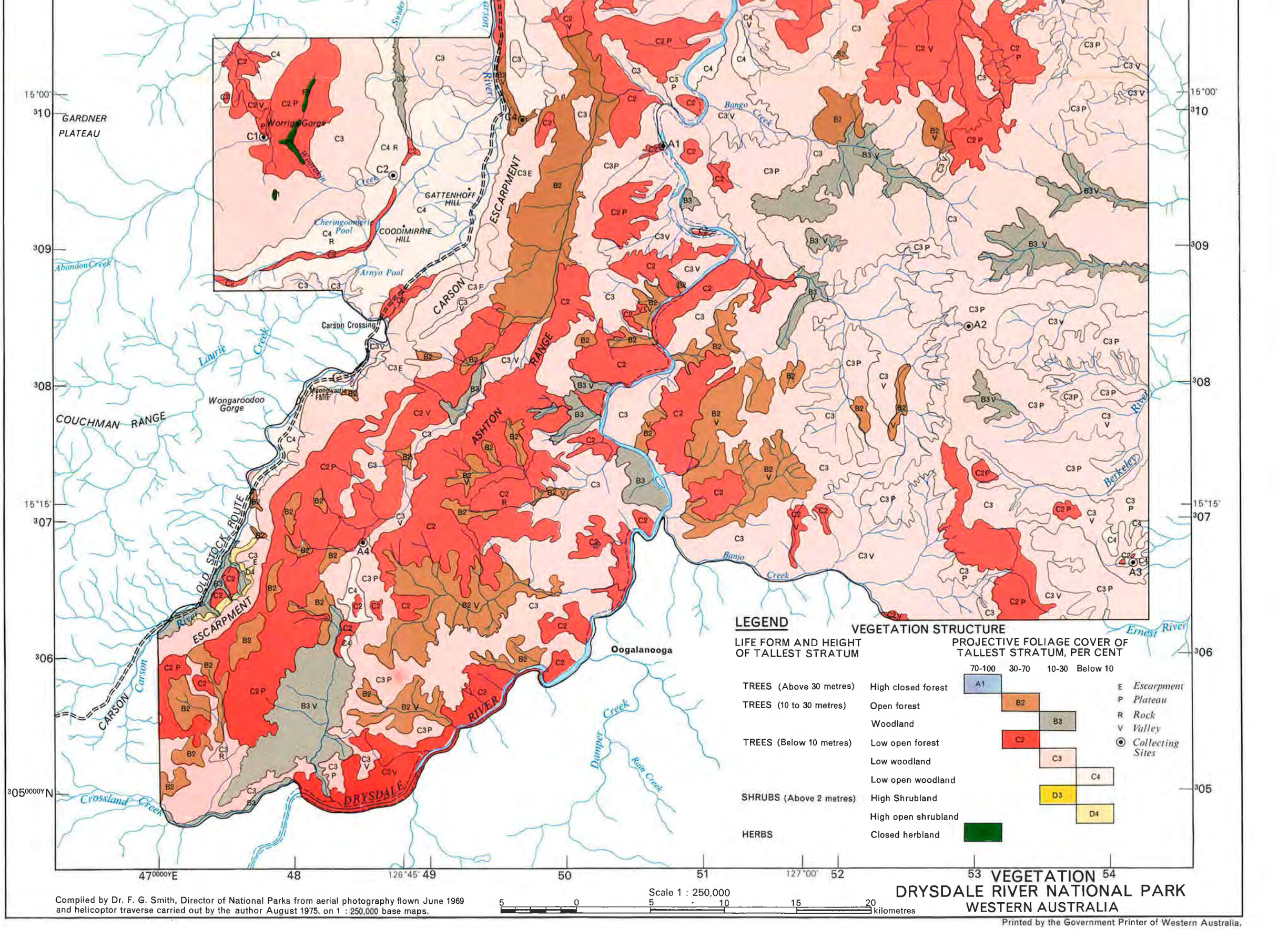
SEE MAP INSIDE BACK COVER

AUSTRALIA 1:250000

DRYSDALE RIVER NATIONAL PARK

REFER TO THIS MAP AS SD 52—13 SD 52—9 VEGETATION





LEGEND

VEGETATION STRUCTURE

LIFE FORM AND HEIGHT OF TALLEST STRATUM

TREES (Above 30 metres)	High closed forest
TREES (10 to 30 metres)	Open forest
	Woodland
TREES (Below 10 metres)	Low open forest
	Low woodland
	Low open woodland
SHRUBS (Above 2 metres)	High Shrubland
	High open shrubland
HERBS	Closed herbland

PROJECTIVE FOLIAGE COVER OF TALLEST STRATUM, PER CENT

70-100 30-70 10-30 Below 10

A1 B2 B3 C2 C3 C4 D3 D4

E *Escarpment*
P *Plateau*
R *Rock*
V *Valley*
⊙ *Collecting Sites*

Scale 1 : 250,000

5 0 5 10 15 20 kilometres

Compiled by Dr. F. G. Smith, Director of National Parks from aerial photography flown June 1969 and helicoptor traverse carried out by the author August 1975. on 1 : 250,000 base maps.

VEGETATION
DRYSDALE RIVER NATIONAL PARK
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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