FLORA

COMMUNITY REGIONAL HERBARIA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

by Jan Gathe

WANT to know the names of the plants in your bushland? Consult your Regional Herbarium!

It became obvious that groups interested in their local flora needed help, and so the WA CALM Herbarium and Greening WA put together a program to assist setting up Regional Herbaria. Now in its second year of operation, there are 48 Regional Herbaria forming a network from Broome to Esperance.

Helping these groups identify their local flora are 15 volunteers who work in the reference section of the CALM Herbarium. volunteer has 'adopted' particular Regional Herbaria and work closely with them in the naming and processing of their plant specimens (vouchers). All the information submitted with each voucher is databased and the mounted voucher is incorporated into the main collection of the CALM Herbarium. Each voucher represents a particular taxon (named plant) at a specific locality and a particular habitat and becomes a vital tool in the botanical research of our unique and complex flora.

Because of this databasing, any change in the status of the voucher (for example, if the name is changed) can be assessed readily and the information passed on to the Regional Herbaria. This keeps them as up to date as possible. The correct name of all plants - trees and understorey species alike - is vitally important, whether a group is interested in conservation, land management or tourism.

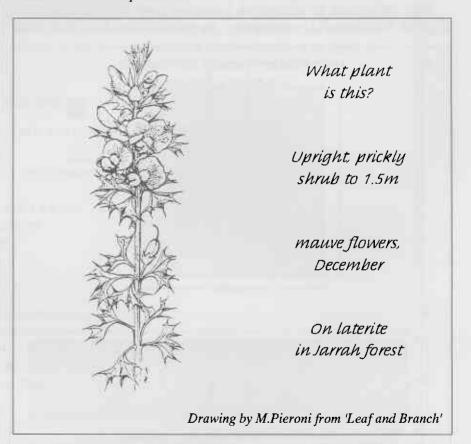
In 1997 four country workshops were held to help collectors choose good quality specimens and submit full field notes. An additional two workshops on the genera Acacia and Eucalyptus were held at the CALM Herbarium.

If you are designing a NHT project this year, which involves surveying or managing native vegetation, I suggest you liaise with your local herbarium group. There are many ways in which they can help, and, in the process, we will all learn more about our wonderful Western Australian plants!

You might be interested in joining one of the regional groups or, if there is none nearby, starting your own Regional Herbarium.

Contact the Coordinator, Jan Gathe at Western Australian Herbarium, LB 4, Bentley Delivery Centre, WA 6983

phone: 08 9334 0587



17 Esperance 33 Nabawa 34 Newdegate 18 Garden Island 35 Nungarin 19 Jerramungup 20 Karratha 36 Pereniori Katanning Pingelly 22 Kojonup 38 Ravensthorpe 23

Location of Regional Herbaria

26

27

- 23 Koorda 39 Rockingham 24 Kulin 40 Three Springs 25 Maniimup 41 Toodyay
 - Manjimup 41 Toodyay Meekatharra 42 Waddi Forest Merredin 43 Wannamal
- 28 Miling
 29 Mingenew
 30 Morawa
 44 Watheroo
 45 West Arthur
 46 Wyalkatchei
- 30 Morawa
 31 Mt Newman
 32 Murchison
 46 Wyalkatchem
 47 York

Albany

Beacon

Bindoon

Brookton

Broome

Bunbury

0 Busselton

12 Corrigin

Cue

4 Denham

15 Denmark

16 Dumbleyung

6

Bridgetown

Bruce Rock

Chapman Valley

Boyup Brook