

# FLORA

## COMMUNITY REGIONAL HERBARIA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

*by Jan Gathe*

**W***ANT 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. Each 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*



*What plant is this?*

*Upright, prickly shrub to 1.5m*

*mauve flowers, December*

*On laterite in Jarrah forest*

*Drawing by M. Pieroni from 'Leaf and Branch'*

### Location of Regional Herbaria

1 Albany	17 Esperance	33 Nabawa
2 Beacon	18 Garden Island	34 Newdegate
3 Bindoon	19 Jerramungup	35 Nungarin
4 Bridgetown	20 Karratha	36 Perenjori
5 Boyup Brook	21 Katanning	37 Pingelly
6 Brookton	22 Kojonup	38 Ravensthorpe
7 Broome	23 Koorda	39 Rockingham
8 Bruce Rock	24 Kulin	40 Three Springs
9 Bunbury	25 Manjimup	41 Toodyay
10 Busselton	26 Meekatharra	42 Waddi Forest
11 Chapman Valley	27 Merredin	43 Wannamal
12 Corrigin	28 Miling	44 Watheroo
13 Cue	29 Mingenew	45 West Arthur
14 Denham	30 Morawa	46 Wyalkatchem
15 Denmark	31 Mt Newman	47 York
16 Dumbleyung	32 Murchison	