

Plant of the Month – August 2013

Astroloma inopinatum



Astroloma inopinatum is a newly described species in the family Ericaceae. It occurs on a decomposed granite breakaway north of the Murchison River, east of Kalbarri National Park, growing in rocky, brown loam. Currently known only from this single, small population on an active pastoral lease and so listed as

Priority One under DEC Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora.

A. inopinatum is one of the largest species in the genus, reaching a height of at least 1.8 m. The epithet is from the Latin *inopinitus* — unexpected, a reference both to the atypically large growth habit for a member of this genus, and to the collection site, which represents an unusual habitat for members of the Styphelioideae generally in Western Australia.

A. inopinatum was previously known under the phrase-name '*Astroloma* sp. Galena (G. Phelan & A.

Chant 9)'. It has recently been described by Michael Hislop, Annette J.G. Wilson and Caroline Puente-Lelièvre [in our journal *Nuytsia*](#), from which much of this text is transcribed. This paper includes a key to species of *Astroloma* with pale yellow, cream and/or green flowers, a number of colour plates including holotype images and distribution maps.

Photo: E.A. Brown

[Find out more about *Astroloma inopinatum*](#)

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