

Plant of the Month – June 2014

Calandrinia mirabilis



Calandrinia mirabilis is an annual herb ranging in size from 1–3cm diameter in small individuals through to as much as 1.2m diameter in robust individuals. It is considered to have horticultural potential due to its spectacular, large, multicoloured flowers. It is ephemeral, being dependent upon good rainfall for germination. In a good

year, the plant can be seen extending to the horizon, yet in a drought year it is difficult to locate any plants. *C. mirabilis* is found in the Gascoyne IBRA Bioregion near Landor Station.

C. mirabilis is a Priority One taxon originally listed under the name *C. sp. Mt Clere* (R.J. Dadd 5).

The specific epithet is derived from the Latin, *mirabilis*, meaning marvellous, wonderful, in reference to the spectacular multicoloured flowers. The plant was described by R.J. Chinnock and J.G. West in the *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens*, from which part of this text is transcribed. The paper references several articles written by Frank Obbens in our journal *Nuytsia* on related species.

Photo: R. Davis

Find out more about *Calandrinia mirabilis*

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