

## Plant of the Month — December 2014

### *Anthotium humile* R.Br.



*Anthotium humile* (Dwarf Anthotium) is a small, summer-flowering, perennial herb with linear to terete leaves that grows in sand or clay in winter-wet swamps or on hillslopes in southern Western Australia. It was described in 1810 by Robert Brown, who also named the genus, basing the name on the Greek words *anthos* (flower) and *otos* (ear). This recognises the distinctive auricles or 'ear-shaped' appendages formed by the inner wings of the two upper corolla lobes that enclose the stylar indusium (the cup-shaped pollen presenter unique to the Goodeniaceae). There are four species in *Anthotium* and two putative new species, all of which have basal leaves, purple, light blue, white or red corolla lobes, and dehiscent capsules.

*Anthotium* is the subject of ongoing research by the Goodeniaceae Working Group — an international collaboration between [Kelly Shepherd](#) (Western Australian Herbarium) and the labs of Rachel Jabaily

(Rhodes College, Memphis) and Dianella Howarth (St John's University, Queens) in the United States. Using molecular evidence, they have shown that it is closely related to *Dampiera* and *Lechenaultia*, genera that share with *Anthotium* a base chromosome number of  $x = 9$ , a lack of stellate hairs, and anthers that are connate around the style. The team is currently using both molecules and morphology to revise the genus and determine if the potentially new species are supported as distinct.

Photo: K. Shepherd

[Find out more about \*Anthotium humile\* R.Br.](#)

- [Previous](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Next](#)

**Are you sure you want to delete this Plant of the Month entry?**



Department of  
**Parks and Wildlife**  
Western Australian Herbarium



Publication or other use of content on this site is unauthorised unless that use conforms with the [copyright statement](#).