

Plant of the Month

July 2021

POTM (/in-focus/tag/potm)

Styphelia tortifolia Hislop, Crayn & Puente-Lel.



Styphelia tortifolia is a low compact shrub, growing to 0.6 m in height and producing a spectacular display of firecracker red, tubular flowers from about June to September.

The species name is derived from the Latin *tortus* (twisted) and *folium* (leaf) in reference to the longitudinally twisted leaves that are a common feature of this species. The narrow, linear (small) leaves are crowded along the stems and have very sharp points.

Endemic to WA, *Styphelia tortifolia* occurs in a broad coastal strip from Geraldton to south of Perth, where it grows in sand or sandy loam soils, often over laterite.

This species was first described in 1845 as *Astroloma glaucescens* by Otto Sonder. However, in 2020 phylogenetic studies by several international researchers including the Western Australian Herbarium's Michael Hislop determined that *Astroloma* needed to be sunk into *Styphelia*. This meant a replacement name was required because of the pre-existence of a different species named *Styphelia glaucescens*.

Photo: R. Davis

[Find out more about *Styphelia tortifolia* Hislop, Crayn & Puente-Lel.](#)

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/49775?ref=florabase.ghost.io>

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