

Plant of the Month

July 2023

POTM (/in-focus/tag/potm)

Lachnostachys verbascifolia F.Muell.
var. *verbascifolia*



Lachnostachys verbascifolia var. *verbascifolia* (Lambs' Tails) is a tall, stout shrub growing to 2 m high. A lamb's tail is exactly what the flower heads look like, with their white and densely woolly spike-like inflorescences. When open, the insides of the flowers display a burst

of intense purple colour that contrasts dramatically with the white woolly spikes. The flowers can be seen from July to November.

Lachnostachys verbascifolia can sometimes be confused with *Lachnostachys coolgardiensis*, which co-occurs in part of its range. However, *L. coolgardiensis* differs in having much narrower, linear leaves and quadrangular branches.

Lambs' Tails is endemic to WA and occurs in various habitats from the Mallee, Coolgardie and Wheatbelt bioregions to Perth and Geraldton and inland to the Murchison region. The other variety, *Lachnostachys verbascifolia* var. *paniculata*, occurs north and east of Esperance.

Photo: R. Davis

[Find out more about *Lachnostachys verbascifolia* F.Muell. var. *verbascifolia*.](#)

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Tags	
All Items (/in-focus)	
General (/in-focus/tag/general)	2
Nuytsia (/in-focus/tag/nuytsia)	10
Plant of the Month (/in-focus/tag/potm)	38

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