

of the Wonkonguru will eat till they can eat no longer, and will lie down under the trees feeling very fat and very comfortable.' Go then, as the spirit tells you, to the rocks of Kelje-bin."

Then Lundwana, the old man, moved forward and spoke:

"We hear the rain-spirit, and we go."

The whole tribe, hearing him, moved as one man in the direction of Kelje-bin. Only Koonkoo looked round once and shook his fist angrily at the figure of the boy standing high upon the rocks.

In five days' time, it was as Ngangan had said. The waters went down, green grass sprang up, and there was food a-plenty for all.

And that is how Ngangan was allowed to live on by himself, unmolested by the tribe, with Woma for his friend, until by-and-by the old carpet-snake died of extreme old age. But before he died he brought to Ngangan his son, Woma-wi, and as the years went on the two became fast friends, and Woma-wi told Ngangan wonderful stories and sang drowsy snake-songs to him, in the great scorching plains of the Dead Heart of Australia.

(The End.)

(The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to "Savage Life in Central Australia," by Horne and Aiston (Macmillan & Co.), and "The Australian Aboriginal," by Basedow (Preece & Sons), for much of the colour, nomenclature, and legendry contained in the "Tales of the Dead Heart.")

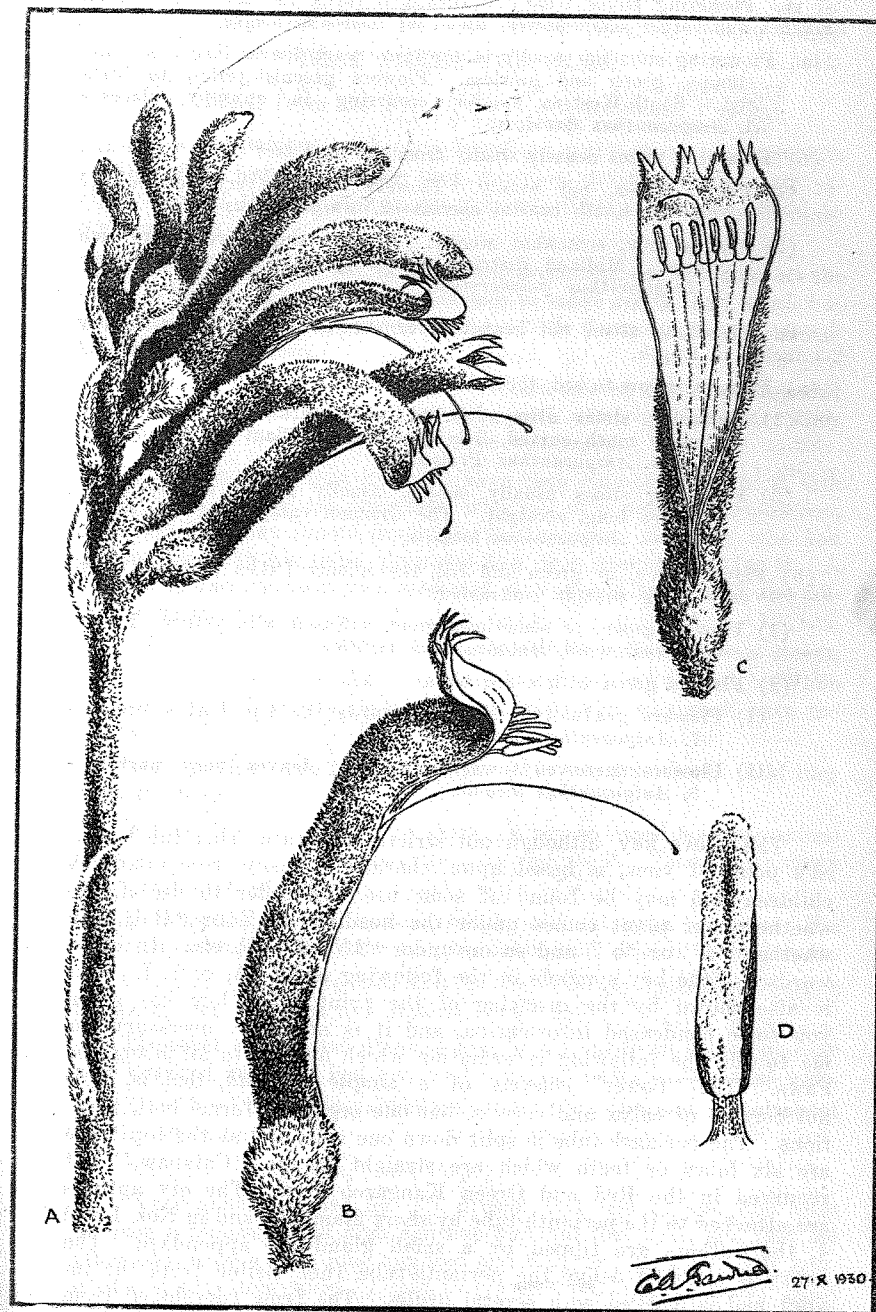
## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WILDFLOWERS.

### No. IX.—The Kangaroo Paw.

By C. A. Gardner, Government Botanist.

The remarkable plants which we know under the name of Kangaroo Paws, are strictly confined to Western Australia. Not only are these plants so confined, but also a number of closely related genera, such as the common yellow woolly flowers and the Blancoa. The most remarkable character of the Kangaroo Paws is their dense covering of matted wool of most striking colours, sometimes beautifully blended (as in the so-called "catspaw") or sometimes sharply contrasted in striking hues of metallic green and crimson. The colours range from pale yellow to deep orange, red, crimson, purple, emerald to metallic green, and, in the "Black Kangaroo Paw," a deep sooty black. The Black Kangaroo Paw, however, belongs to a different genus from the remainder, having a remarkable type of fruit, and will not be further dealt with here, but will be the subject of a special article shortly.

The true Kangaroo Paws are eight in number, and may be divided into two classes: those which branch out at the top of the stem, and those which have simple racemes or spikes. The following simple key will enable you to distinguish the species with ease.



The Kangaroo Paw (*Amigozanthus Manglesii*, D. Don).  
A., Inflorescence; B., Flower (side view); C., Flower (front view); D., Anther.  
(A., B., and C. natural size; D  $\times$  6.5.)

A. Flowering stems widely branched towards the top with several branches and rather small flowers under  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length.

(a) Flowering stem not woolly in the lower part, leaves large, in dense clumps, green and hairless. Flowers greenish-yellow to brick red. South-Western species occurring in swampy places—  
1. *Anigozanthus flavida*.

(b) Flowering stems densely woolly from the base.

(1) Leaves green, not woolly. Flowers purple (very occasionally yellow). South coastal species—2. *Anigozanthus rufa*.

(2) Leaves grey, somewhat woolly. Flowers sulphur-yellow to rich orange. Midland districts species growing on sand-plains—  
3. *Anigozanthus pulcherrima*.

B. Flowering stems not branched, or once-forked. Flowers usually 2-3 inches in length.

(a) Flowers yellow to red, the colours blended.

(1) Flowering stems always forked, each fork with 2-6 flowers. Flowers much curved, 2-3 inches long. Plant of Albany district—4. *Anigozanthus Preissii*.

(2) Flowering stems usually simple, usually short; flowers under 2 inches long, straight. The common catspaw of the South-West—5. *Anigozanthus humilis*.

(b) Flower green, or green and red, the colours (when both are present) being sharply contrasted.

(1) Flowers green, or sometimes green suffused with yellow. Leaves very narrow—6. *Anigozanthus viridis*.

(2) Flowers green with a red base.

(I) Flowers gradually widened towards the tip, leaves broad—  
7. *Anigozanthus Manglesii*.

(II) Flowers narrowed towards the tip; leaves very narrow—  
8. *Anigozanthus bicolor*.

The above key, although not strictly accurate from the botanist's point of view, is based upon characters easily recognized by children and may be found of some use. In order to use it, see whether your plant comes under the heading "A" or "B", then whether "a" or "b," and so on under "1" or "2", etc. In other words use the key symbols in the following order: A, a, 1, I. This is also shown by the inseting of the print. The key has given you some condensed information, and it is now only necessary for me to add the following information which applies to all Kangaroo Paws. The "flower" consists of a simple *perianth*, that is, it is not formed of calyx and corolla, but one organ performs both functions. The perianth-tube is split down one side, and at the top there are six lobes or teeth which are straight in the "Catspaw," but recurved in the Red and Green Kangaroo Paw. The six anthers are attached to the perianth-tube by short filaments, and in Nos. 1 and 4, the anthers are tipped by a small gland-like appendage. The ovary is situated below the perianth-tube (not visible from the inside) and is 3-celled with several ovules. The fruit (developed from the ovary) is a capsule opening in three pores or valves, and contains small rough seeds. The style is long and slender. The leaves are developed like those of the *Watsonia* in a flat fan-like arrangement, and the underground parts of the plants usually consist of a hardened stock or rhizome which is perennial.