grown, and these go down about two or three feet until they reach the layer of soil which will remain moist all the summer. Here they make little earthen cells for themselves, and remain dormant until the following winter, when they grow in time to change into beetles in November. In this way they prepare for some unforeseen catastrophe which might wipe out all the weevils feeding on the trees before they could lay any eggs. In such cases there would still be some grubs in the soil; these would feed during the winter and come out as weevils the following summer. But still not satisfied, they take a further precaution. Not all the weevils die in the autumn after having laid eggs. About one-fifth of them remain alive throughout the winter, hibernating, not feeding. They feed again in September and lay eggs in October, and again in the autumn. In this way the weevil provides against some unforeseen catastrophe which might come along and wipe out all the grubs in the soil. For if this did happen, and there were none left to emerge as beetles in December there would still remain those which had hibernated; and they would lay eggs to provide for the future. Is it any wonder that this wily little insect has managed to exist under all sorts of conditions?

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WILDFLOWERS.

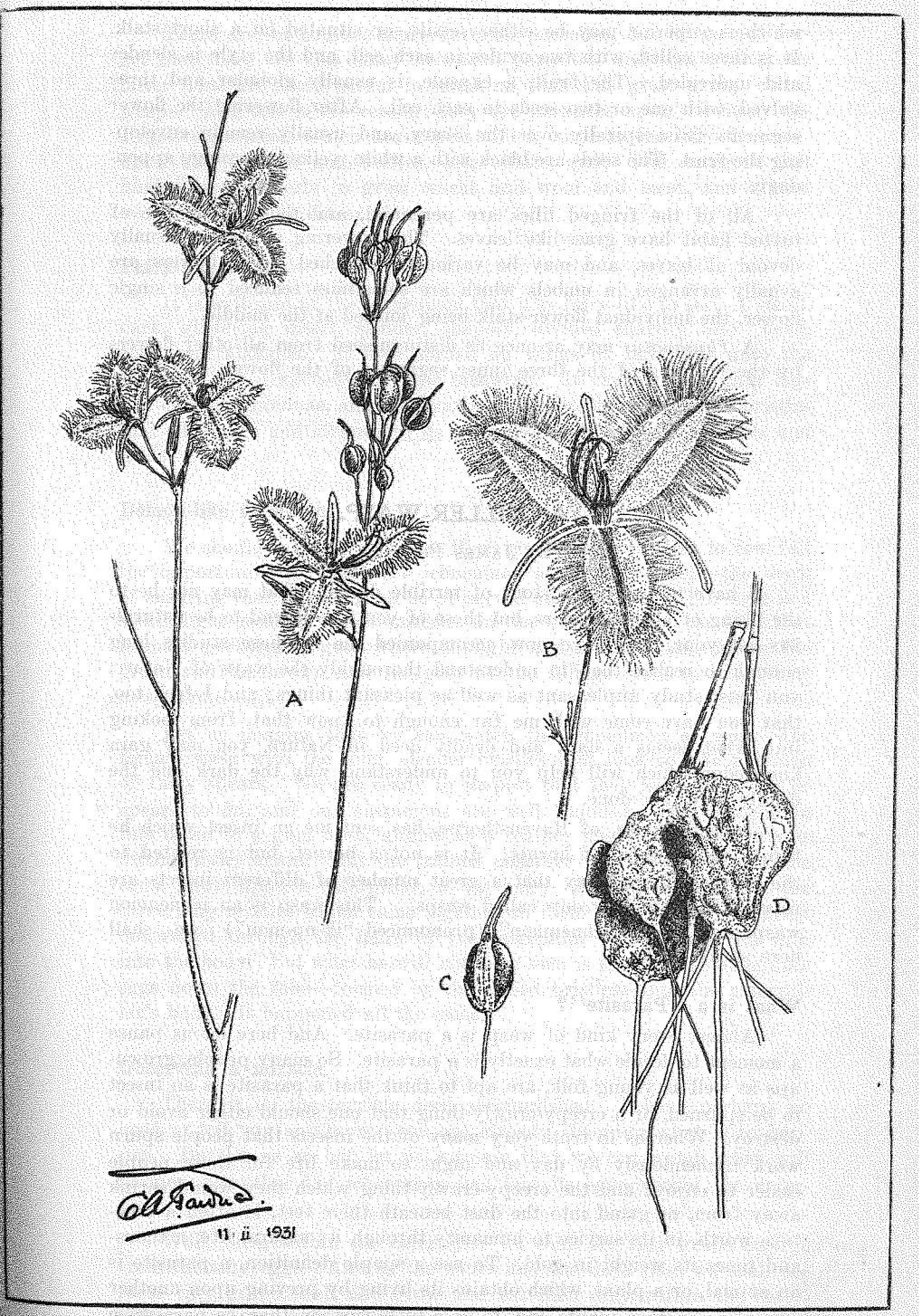
No. XI.—THE FRINGED LILIES.

(By C. A. GARDNER, Government Botanist.)

The Fringed Lilies are amongst the most distinctive of all our wildflowers. Everyone is familiar with the type, for the different species are scattered throughout the State, wherever there is sufficient rainfall to support agricultural pursuits. From the far distant Kimberleys they extend to the south coast, and from the coast they extend as far inland as Menzies.

There are 18 species of the Genus *Thysanotus* in Western Australia. The flowers are remarkably similar, except that the number of stamens varies from three to six, but in habit they are more diversified. Of the total number one alone is a climbing plant; the rest are small tufted plants, except *T. dichotomus*, which has a rather rambling habit. *Thysanotus multiflorus* is a very conspicuous species by reason of the abundance of its flowers; but others produce few flowers on long rush-like stems. The species selected for illustration may be taken as being typical of the genus, and shows the construction of the flower.

The flower has six segments which are about equal in length, the three outer ones narrow, with thin entire margins, and the three inner ones broader and elegantly fringed. There are three stamens opposite to the outer segments, or sometimes wanting, and three attached to the bases of the inner segments. Where there are six they may be in groups of three which are very dissimilar. The anther cells are parallel and confluent at the apex, opening longitudinally. The ovary



THE FRINGED LILY.

Thysanotus dichotomus (Labill) R. Br. Incon. origin. King's Park, Perth, W.A.
A. Sprays of Flowers and fruits (reduced). C. Single fruit (about natural size). B. Single flower (about natural size). D. Root stock (about natural size).

which is superior may be either sessile, or situated on a short stalk. It is three celled, with two ovules in each cell, and the style is slender and undivided. The fruit, a capsule, is usually globular and three valved, with one or two seeds in each cell. After flowering the flower segments twist spirally over the ovary, and usually remain enveloping the fruit. The seeds are black with a white, yellow or orange appendage.

All of the fringed lilies are perennial, and those which are of tufted habit have grass-like leaves. The flowering stems are usually devoid of leaves, and may be variously branched. The flowers are usually arranged in umbels which are sometimes reduced to a single flower, the individual flower-stalk being jointed at the middle.

A *Thysanotus* may at once be distinguished from all other flowers by the fringing of the three inner segments of the flower.