

I hope that you girls and boys realize that, as you grow older, you must play your part in the building of a great State. It is a heritage that has been won for you by toil and struggle and suffering.

We must remember that our great progress has been won not only by those whose names appear in the historical records of our country, but also by the unknown pioneers, those silent, clear-eyed, purposeful men and women—the vanguard of the army of civilization advancing slowly, surely, and steadfastly in the conquest of the great unknown land.

A handful of workers seeking the star of a strong intent—
 A handful of heroes scattered to conquer a continent—
 Thirst, and fever, and famine, drought, and ruin, and flood,
 And the bones that bleach on the sandhill, and the spears that redden with blood,
 And the pitiless might of the molten skies, at noon, on the sun-cracked plain,
 And the walls of the northern jungles shall front them ever in vain,
 Till the land that lies like a giant asleep shall wake to the victory won,
 And the hearts of the Nation Builders shall know that the work is done.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WILDFLOWERS.

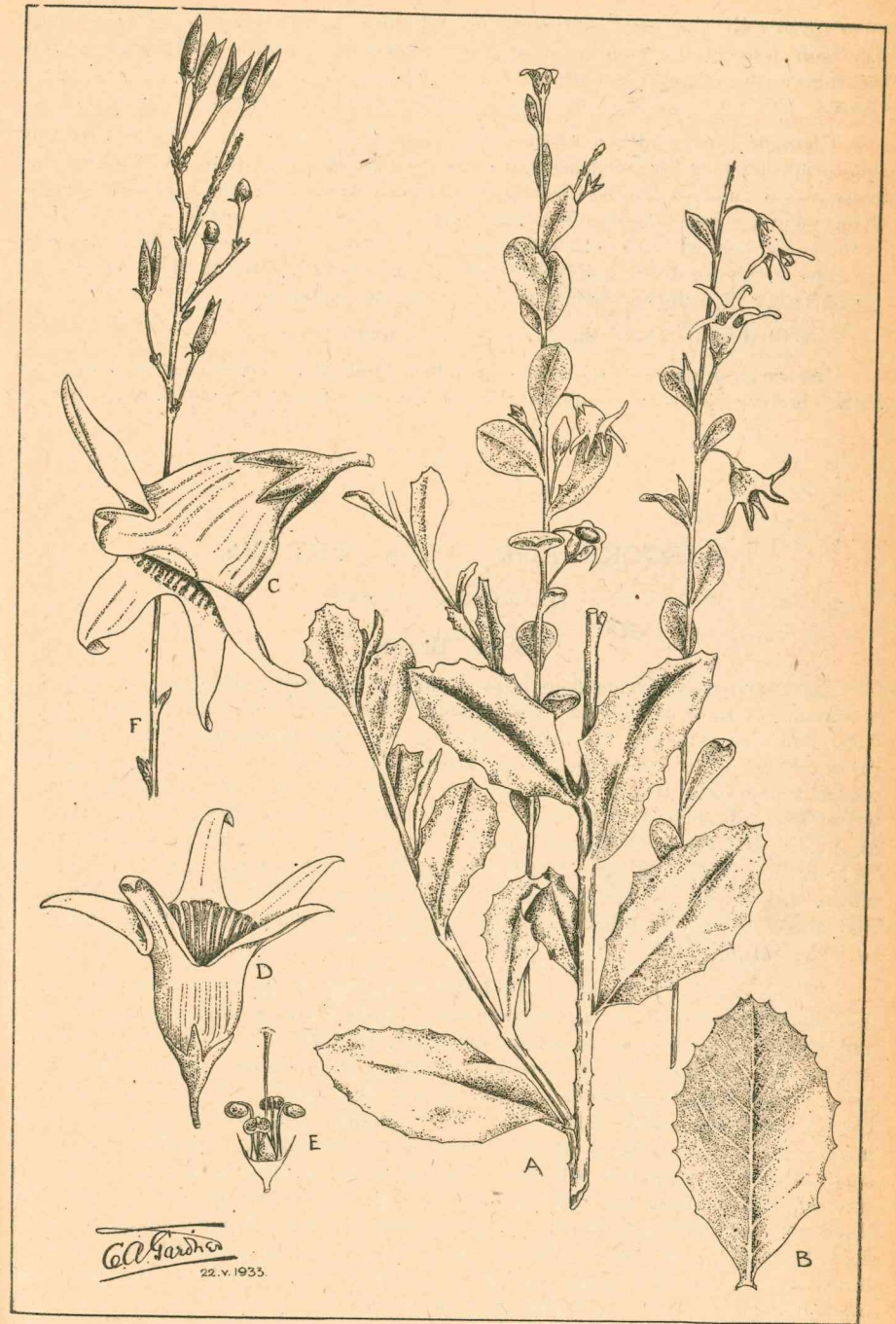
No. XXXI. THE YELLOW RAY-FLOWER.

(*Anthocercis littorea*, Labill.)

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

This shrub, which is found along the limestone hills between Augusta and the Murchison River on the west coast, and between Albany and Israelite Bay on the south coast, flowers during the greater part of the year, but more particularly during the autumn. Its curious flowers, in which the corolla-lobes spread horizontally in five narrow rays, make it attractive at this season of the year. The small and wide cup formed by the base of the corolla is striped with many red or purple lines, and make a further distinguishing feature.

The plant is a shrub which varies in height from three to eight or nine feet. It has a few erect stems, frequently armed with short straight spines, and the branches are green in colour. The fleshy leaves vary considerably in shape and size, from long and narrow to obovate (inverted spoon-shaped) or wedge-shaped, and they are sometimes toothed. In texture they are usually thick and soft, and almost fleshy, and they are always hairless. Towards the upper parts of the plant the leaves become reduced in size, until the uppermost leaves are usually small and less than half an inch in length. Those near the base, or on the lower branches frequently attain a length of two inches. The flowers are usually borne on the upper slender, often leafless branches, forming leafless panicles of racemes. Each flower is stalked, the stalk being usually slender. The calyx has a short hemispherical tube and five narrow and acute lobes which vary in length from shorter than to slightly longer than the tube. The corolla, which is variable in size, has a bell-shaped tube and five narrow, spreading, somewhat unequal lobes of a sulphur yellow, often twice as long as the tubular portion of the corolla. The tube is streaked inside by the fine lines mentioned above. The stamens are four in number, and are included within the tube of the corolla. The anthers are two-celled, opening lengthwise, and are turned outwards in the bud. The ovary is superior, ovate in outline but acute, and somewhat compressed from the sides,



Anthocercis littorea Labill

A. habit. B. leaf. C. & D. flower. E. stamens and pistil F. branch with fruits.
 A, B & F reduced. C, D & E slightly enlarged. Icon. origin.
 King's Park, Perth W.A.

tapering into the short style which divides into two short and broad stigmatic lobes. The fruit is a capsule formed of two united carpels, *i.e.*, the capsule is two-celled. When mature it lengthens out to half an inch in length, opening in two acute valves. The seeds are numerous and slightly curved and rough externally.

There is some evidence which suggests that this plant may be poisonous to stock, especially cattle, but this remains to be proved. The genus *Anthocercis* belongs to the Tobacco family (*Solanaceae*) and already one species, native of King George Sound, has caused poisoning around Albany. The plant was suspected in the early days of settlement there, and destroyed; at the present time specimens are rare in this locality. *Anthocercis littorea* is closely related to this species, and occurs freely in country where losses in stock are sustained.

For further details of the plant see accompanying plate.

The generic name *Anthocercis* is taken from two Greek words—*anthos*, a flower, and *kerkis*, a ray; referring to the usually narrow ray-like corolla-lobes.
