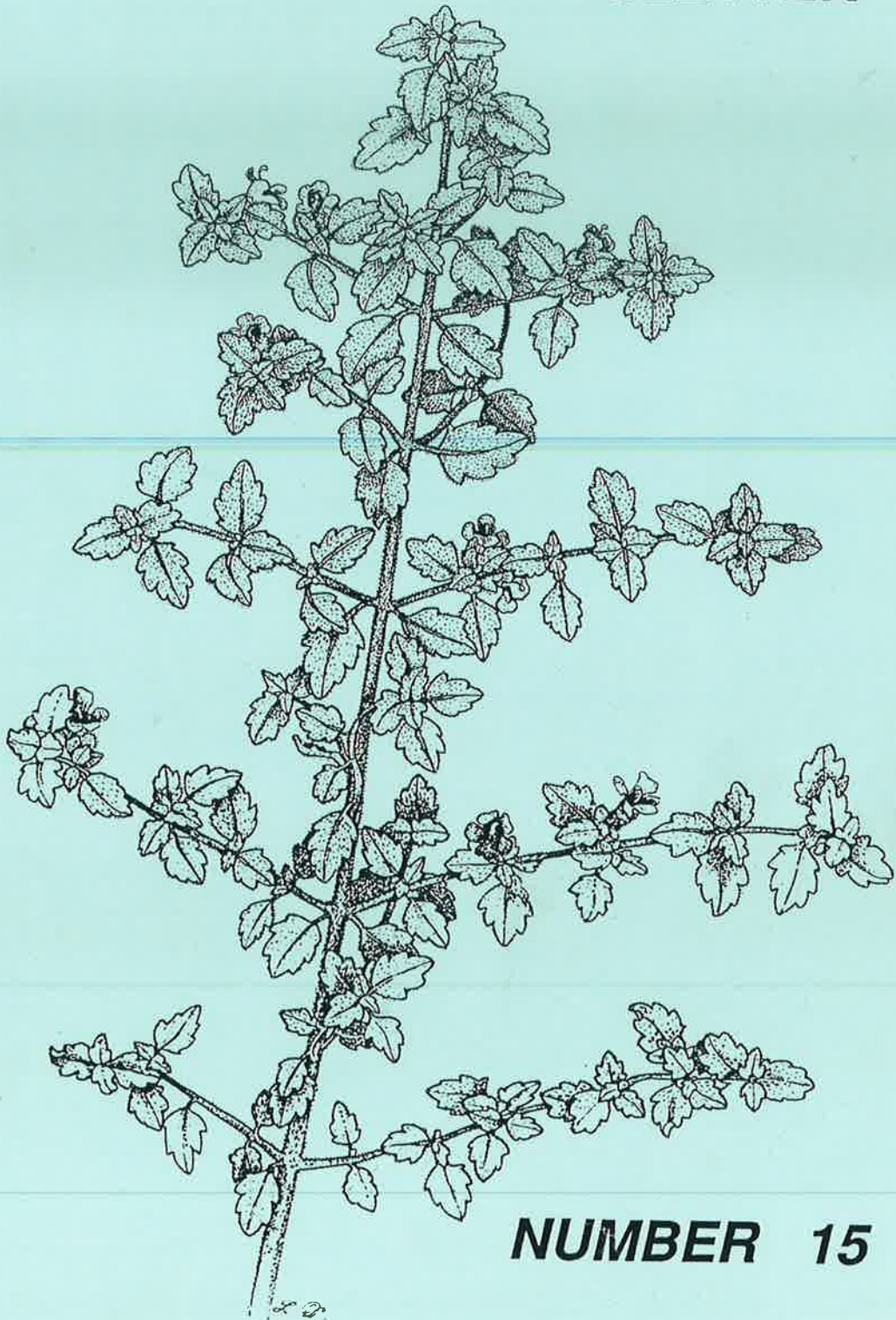


PROSTANTHERA & WESTRINGIA
STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER



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PROSTANTHERA & WESTRINGIA STUDY GROUP
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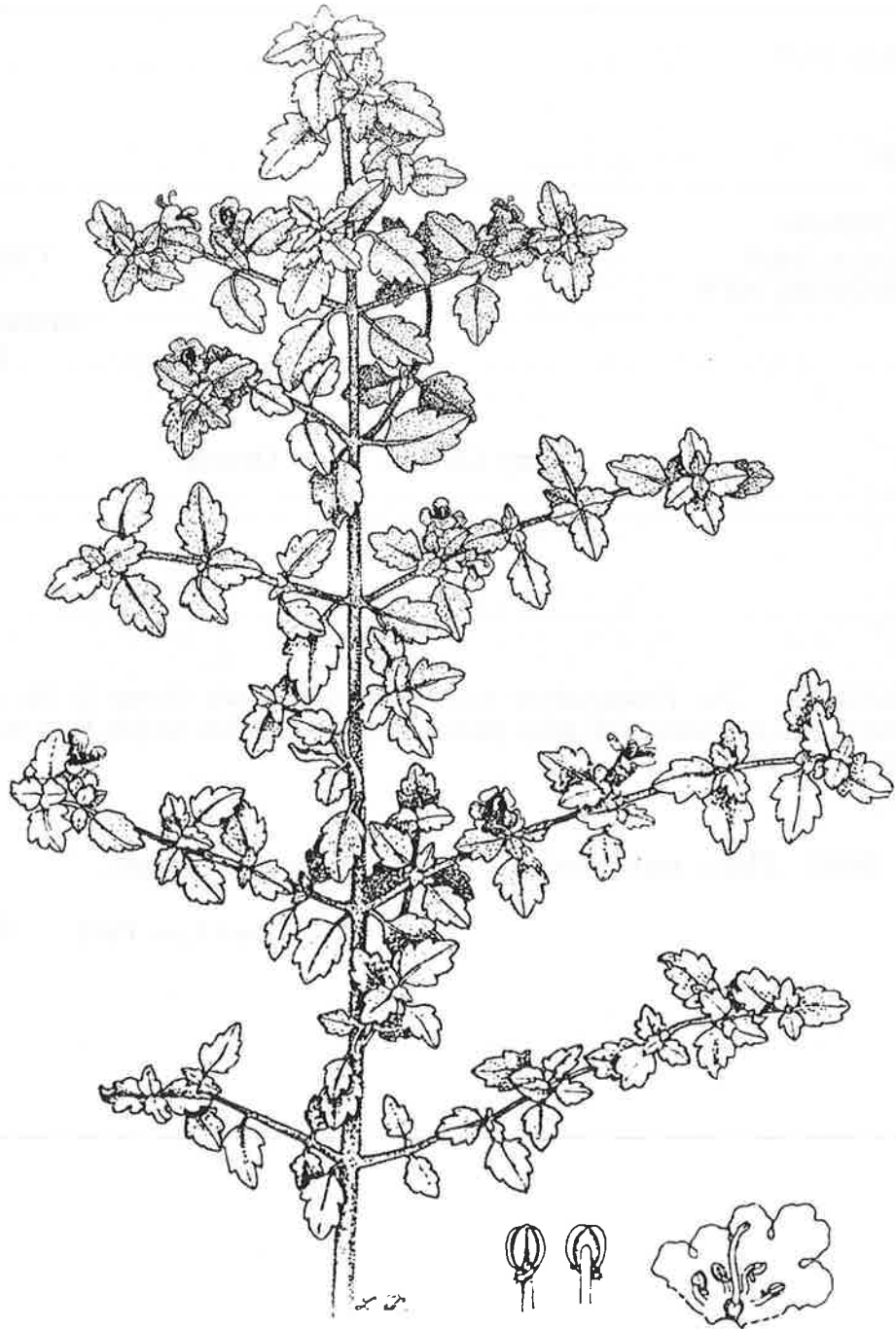
Barry Conn & Brian Timmis

MEMBERSHIP: The *Prostanthera* and *Westringia* Study Group is for all those who are interested in the cultivation of Mint bushes and *Westringias* which have been collected from the wild.

FEES: \$4:00. Please make sure that you are a financial member.

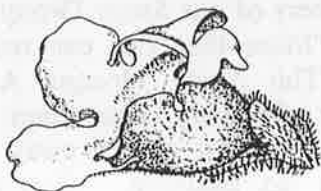
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The Society for Growing Australian Plants



FRONT COVER

The illustration on the Front Cover is *Prostanthera incana*.



The Study Group and S.G.A.P. or "The Study Grope, SCRAP!"

Brian Timmis
Berrima, NSW

I have been concerned about the role that the S.G.A.P. should play in the development and maintenance of the Study Groups. In particular, I am interested in what the relationship between our Study Group and the S.G.A.P. should be. Naturally, the primary and most immediate need of any Study Group is usually a financial one. I am very concerned by the general lack of financial support from the *Society for Growing Australian Plants*. However, the following S.G.A.P. Regions **do** support the Study Group: The Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. Many of the above include a small donation with their \$4.00 fee. However, the New South Wales Region has

never supported the Study Group. Recently, I believe that the N.S.W. region agreed to support Study Groups. As far as I am aware, they agreed that:

- (i) all Study Groups were to receive an annual subscription of \$25.00, and
- (ii) Study Groups having a leader residing in New South Wales would be supported financially for projects. This was to be limited to a total of 8 Study Groups.

If the above is correct, then the N.S.W. Region has gone a long way to improving the financial basis of the Study Groups. I applaud their decision. However, this group has not received the \$25.00 annual subscription and we have received no official information on the financial support for specific projects.

It was suggested to me by a senior member of the S.G.A.P. (N.S.W.) Executive that the reason why our Study Group has not received support was because we did not present a display at the 1988 Flower Show. I sincerely hope that this explanation is not correct because I have been involved in all the Flower Shows over the past 10 years, except for the last!

In 1985, there were funds available to purchase materials for growing plants for the proposed displays in 1988. I wrote to the appointed person requesting funds. I am lead to believe that this request was never considered or presented to the Committee concerned with the allocation of funds. I was later informed that some 200 mm pots were available, but these were too small for our needs and we required potting mix as well.

During my Presidency at East Hills S.G.A.P., it was moved and seconded by the group that the Study Group should receive a grant of \$1000.00 from S.G.A.P. (N.S.W.). It was approved by N.S.W.

Region. However, only \$100.00 was received. Some time ago, I was informed that \$400.00 was following. It has not arrived! Some 6 months later, I revised my request asking for the \$900.00. This request also sought financial assistance to produce our *Newsletter*.

Those who receive the *Prostanthera & Westringia Study Group Newsletter* will realize that the information presented in the *Newsletter* is as accurate and informative as is possible. Dr Barry Conn (Senior Botanist at the National Herbarium of New South Wales) gives his time and expertise freely. Anyone can seek his advice. He does all the typing, final editing, layout and photocopying of our *Newsletter*. In this issue he presents a summary on his recently published taxonomic work on the Western Australian *Prostantheras*. We work with him updating the *Prostantheras*, *Westringias* and all the other Australian *Labiatae*. We desperately need funds and, of course, we need more members. I appeal to editors of all S.G.A.P. publications to expose our efforts in the hope that new members will support the Study Group.

Fees are a problem. To belong to S.G.A.P. costs \$20.00. To belong to a local S.G.A.P. Group costs about \$5.00, then \$4 or \$5 to belong to a Study Group. It all adds up, especially if one wishes to join a few Study Groups. At this point, I must thank S.G.A.P. Groups and members for various donations - it all helps. It is essential!

During 1988, following three talks, I realized that not many S.G.A.P. members belonged to a Study Group. Barry Conn travelled to Newcastle (a large group), but there are only 2 or 3 Newcastle members in our Study Group. I gave two talks on consecutive nights. The first one was to the A.C.T. Group and the next to the North Shore Group. I believe that these three talks

were well received. I did ask each group if any members present belonged to a Study Group. At the A.C.T. Group talk, only one person belonged to two Study Groups and one person joined our Group. At the North Shore Group, no members present belong to a Study Group. Regretfully, I was unable to attend my third talk to the St George Group.

I guess that I am asking, "How much can anyone give?" I look around me at the members of our Study Group and the answer is, "More than one can reasonably expect". The *Study Groups* ARE the *Society for Growing Australian Plants*. Take these specialist groups away and the Society has no meaning. Sceptically, I often feel that the 'Society' has tried to assumed a meaning in its own right, distinct from and devoid of the 'Growing Australian Plants' part! The two must be brought back together. It is our Society and our Study Groups. Let us use our money to support our activities.



A COMMENT

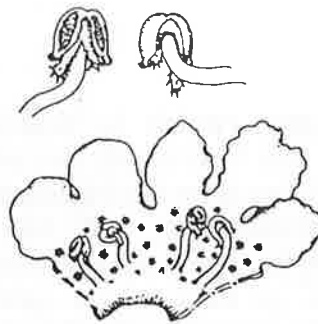
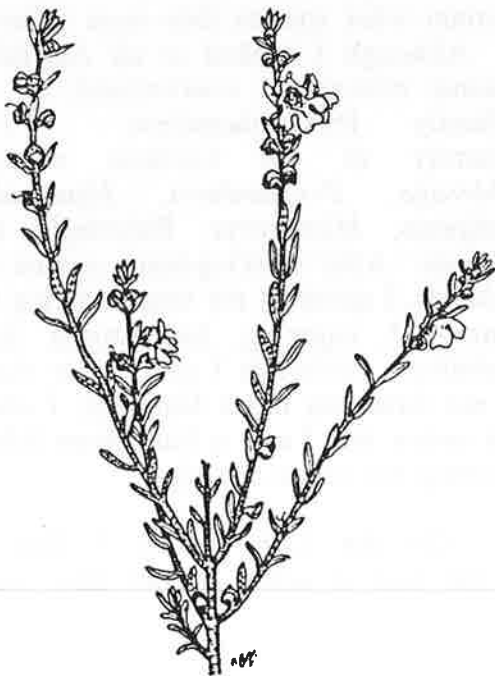
Barry Conn

Brian has raised two important, inter-related issues in the above article. Issues that have silently frustrated him ever since he took over the Study Group from Les Taylor. I have tried to distance myself from the politics of S.G.A.P., but it has often been difficult to ignore responses that sometimes appear to represent a total lack of support for the Study Groups. Other

Study Groups have also had problems obtaining financial and non-financial support. I am not sure if our *Newsletter* is the most appropriate vehicle for the discussion of these problems, but it is time to ask questions about our direction, both as a Study Group and a Society.

We need the support of the membership, otherwise the Study Group has little relevance to the Society. If the Society does not support a Study Group then that Group merely becomes individuals devoid from the larger 'umbrella' Society. I have often asked myself, "How does S.G.A.P. help our Study Group?" If S.G.A.P. did not want the Study Group, would the Group survive in its own right? I think the answer might just be "yes"! But, could S.G.A.P. survive without Study Groups? I can not imagine how.

I would like to invite comments from the members of our Study Group or from other Groups. In fact, I would be please to receive comments from anyone within S.G.A.P.



Back Issues Are Available

A limited number of back issues of the "*Prostanthera & Westringia Study Group Newsletter*" are available for sale. Numbers 11, 12 and 13 are available at \$3.00 each (including postage). Number 14 is available for \$1.00, plus postage. Contact Brian if you wish to purchase any back issues of our *Newsletter*.



WHO NEEDS HELP NOW?

June Gay

HELP! HELP! We are being inundated with specimens. For the past year, Ruth Overton and I have been assisting Dr Barry Conn by mounting the Labiatae collection at the National Herbarium of New South Wales. Unfortunately I can only afford one half day per week and Ruth one day per week. We really would appreciate a few extra pairs of hands. It is quite easy and interesting work, much better than housework or watching "Days of our Drearies"! The specimens are mounted on

archival paper (which is acid-free) with sticky tape that insects will not eat. Plastic bags are used to keep the fragments together. These fragments can still be used for scientific study. No skills are necessary, just a little TLC as some of the specimens are rather fragile, especially the older ones. You will get to see and touch (gently please!) the actual collections made by past botanists, back as far as the 1800's.

Ruth and I have mounted some of the older collections, including *P. spinosa* (we think that there must have been hundreds of them!) and *P. magnifica* (a truly magnificent species). One of our problems is an on-going one. We get quite a few done then Barry goes off on another field trip and arrives back with hundreds more. These are usually a bit of everything, not just *Prostantheras*. Some of these specimens are quite interesting in that they may be not only rare but entirely new to science. These have to be done first, otherwise they are just sitting around the different offices and likely to become damaged.

You will enjoy most pleasant surroundings and company. Morning and afternoon tea is provided. Tea comes in four varieties - 'Weak', 'Hybrid', 'Strong' and 'Exotic'.

[All I can say is well done and thanks for an incredible effort. It is a never-ending job, but one that is exceptionally well done by both Ruth and June - Barry]



GUINNESS, LEPRECHAUNS, CORNISH PASTIES, SPIKE MILLIGAN'S WAR MEMOIRS & MINT BUSHES!

Barry Conn

What has the above title got to do with mint bushes? Well, I am not too sure either, but ... !

On the 28th February, I flew to Dublin to visit the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin and Trinity College, Dublin (Republic of Ireland). I spent two weeks studying the type specimens and other old collections held at these two institutions. The type specimens are those that are used to describe a new species. Since the plant descriptions provided by the early botanists were often very short and often somewhat inadequate, these specimens are the only means by which one can ascertain what species they were referring to. Although I looked at all Australian Labiatae material, I concentrated on the subfamily Prostantheroideae. This subfamily of the Labiatae contains *Eichlerago*, *Prostanthera*, *Hemiandra*, *Hemigenia*, *Microcorys*, *Westringia* and *Wrixonia*. After working-hours and on the weekends, I spent all my time admiring the sights and enjoying the famous Irish hospitality. Although I assure you that I did not have too much Guinness, I could have sworn that I saw a little green fellow following me home one night!

On the 12th March, I flew to London half a stone heavier (too much

home-made Irish cooking! - just like Mother used to make!) and started work at the British Museum (Natural History) the next day. This famous herbarium has many of the Robert Brown plant collections that were made on Flinders' voyages. I was particularly interested in these collections because they are very important for the nomenclature (naming) of the Prostantheras of Eastern Australia. Naturally, this herbarium also contains other old collections that are of historical importance. The last two weeks of my stay in England were spent at the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Here I studied the many collections that were used as the basis for the species described by George Bentham.

Naturally, I ran out of time. One always hopes to do more than is humanly possible. Easter was spent in Cornwall, visiting and more eating! Finally, on the 31st March I staggered onto a Qantas flight bound for Australia. They charged me excess baggage and let my luggage go for free! I have been asleep ever since, but I have not started a diet yet - it seems a pity to let all that good food go to waste!

[What about Spike Milligan? Oh, yes! - reading material for the flight home!]



Hemigenia cuneifolia

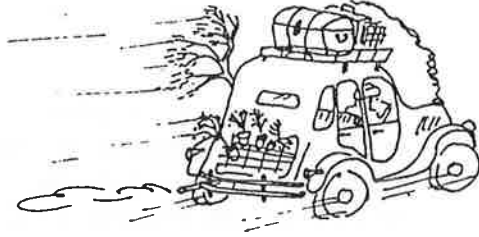
Robert Miller
Picnic Point, NSW

All group members can make a significant contribution to our knowledge of the Australian Labiatae. *Hemigenia cuneifolia* is an interesting example of this fact.

This species was regarded as rare and therefore possibly endangered because there are only a few collection held by herbaria.

This species is of further botanical interest because is more closely related to the genus *Microcorys* than to most of the other members of the genus *Hemigenia* (Conn, pers. comm.). It is now known from the Goonoo Goonoo State Forest (Collector: P. Althofer), Goulbourn River (Collector: T. Tame), Goulbourn River National Park (Collector: R. Miller), Northern Wollemi National Park (Collector: C. Gibson and R. Miller) and Shoalhaven River (Collector: B.J. Conn & R. Miller). With brief notes, as set out in the *Westringia* article in *Newsletter* No. 14, collections such as these will greatly assist in the revision of this taxon.

My observations have lead me to conclude that this species is widely distributed and fairly common. The new collections are from poorly collected regions and border remote and difficult terrain. With further collecting in these regions I am sure that this species will be found to be not rare, but only poorly collected.



FIELD TRIPS

Labiatae of Torrington

Robert Miller
Picnic Point, NSW

In early October 1987, the intriguing landscape of granite monoliths and steeply eroded valleys of Torrington, North-west of Glen Innes beckoned me again. The diverse and distinct nature of the flora and terrain will ensure many more trips. The main objective of my foray was to observe and record populations of *Prostanthera teretifolia* that are endemic to the area. A single specimen held at the University of New England, Armidale (N.S.W.) recorded a white form of the species. Knowing this fact and seeing the beautiful colour forms of *P. ovalifolia* at Brundah (N.S.W.), I hoped to find a similar array of colour forms of the species that is normally purple. This species is regarded by many as the best mint for horticulture.

I arrived at Torrington in the late afternoon. It is a town of ramshackle huts, a museum, a caravan park complete with a caravan, and a post office. I set off on the road to Silent Grove, which at times may as well not be there. To my surprise, this time

it was in remarkably good condition.

I hoped to re-familiarize myself with the natural formations of the area and to then relocate a number of mint bush locations described by George Althofer in the 'Cradle of Incense', namely those of *P. saxicola* var. *robusta* and *P. scutellariodes*.

My heart was again saddened by the vandalism occurring in this area (wholesale clearing of land with dubious long term agricultural productivity) and the most unfriendly signs of 'Trespassers will be Shot!', 'Trespassers Prosecuted Qld. Pastoral Company!' I thought to myself, "What was their punishment for camping for the night?" as I drifted off to sleep.

The next morning, I was rudely awakened, my vehicle being buffed and bounced around. In the predawn gloom and emerging from my comma-like lumber, I was expecting a confrontation with our friendly sign-writers! Only cattle! Oh well, an early start!

After a couple of kilometers following Silent Grove Creek, and hopefully of finding *P. saxicola* var. *robusta*, my enthusiasm waned. I decided

that this plant could be anywhere and my original goal of finding the colour forms of *P. teretifolia* would be more rewarding.

Arriving at the car all was well. The cattle were still amusing themselves with my car. Returning to Silent Grove Trig while admiring its floral splendour of *Boronia granitica*, *Phebalium* sp., *Stylidium laricifolium*, etc. ..., I again observed the watershed flowing east into the Mole River. I decided to traverse the length of Moleyard Creek, thence into Oaky Creek for an undetermined distance, then pick up a convenient ridge and head in a circuitous route via any interesting natural feature back to the car. On the way to my departure point was a small upland swamp that had recently been burnt, presumably for grazing. There were a few isolated patches that were not burnt, here I hoped to find a distinct form of *P. scutellariodes*. At first no plants of this mint were evident. I had almost given up when what appeared to be a small seedling caught my eye. Yes, it was *P. scutellariodes*, re-sprouting after the fire. With enthusiasm restored, more suckering plants and seedling were seen. At the southern end of the swamp where the depression narrowed and began to form a creek, mature plants of *P. scutellariodes* escaped the fire. They were a small shrub of one metre high, corolla deep purple to violet, and leaves narrowly ovate to linear and slightly scented.

Reaching my departure point and parking the car along a Four-wheel Drive track, I went to the back of the car to get my pack and there was the usual colour form of *P. teretifolia* growing on a small area of exposed rock. This is more like it; mints from the start! The creek slowly dropped away and the going was easy. Interesting plants were everywhere. It was not long before another small population of *P. teretifolia* was observed. Arriving at the

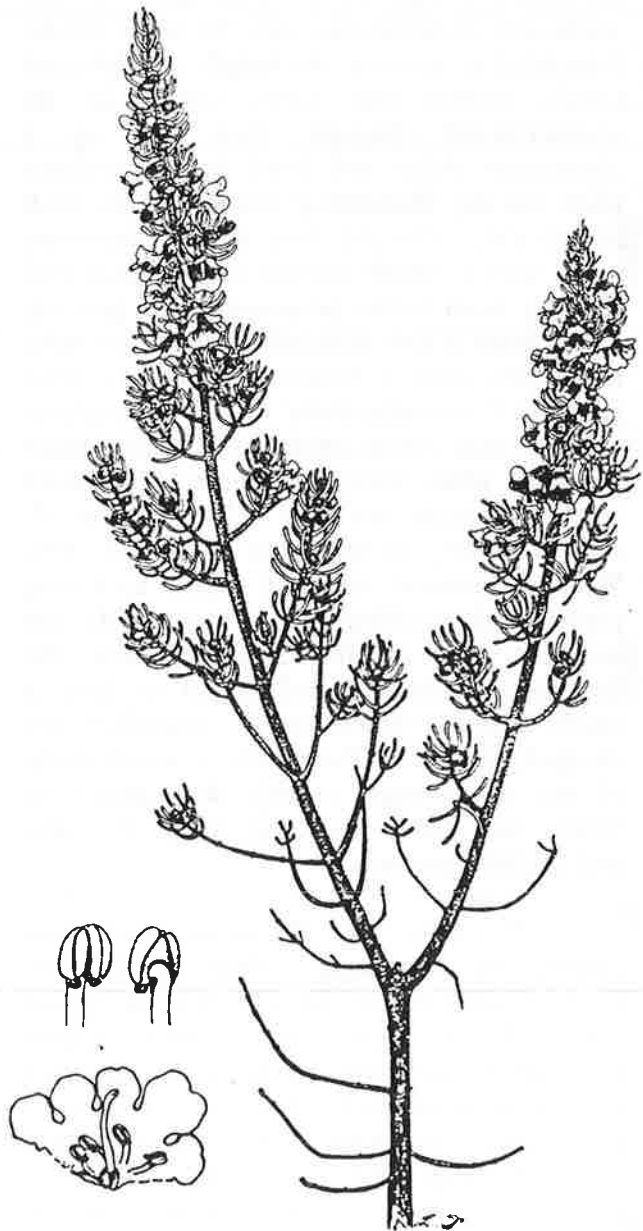
first waterfall of the creek, and observing a number of populations growing in similar rocky areas, slightly upstream from the falls was the rare and exquisite yellow-flowered *Asterolasia asterophora*. Here I also saw a 10 foot high, fairly open *Westringia* that had light green foliage and light mauve flowers. The flowers had brown dots in the throat. I determined it to be possibly related to *W. amabilis* that I observed a few days earlier on the coast.

A further 0.5 km down stream was a large population of *P. teretifolia*. To my delight, away from the main population was a small group of plants including a pale pastel pink form and the most exquisite rosy pink flowered form. I was ecstatic! If this jewel was a diamond, I would be a very wealthy person. How many more colour forms were hidden in amongst the masses of plants further up this huge piece of exposed granite. I could not wait to find out!

What's that? There in large numbers was a form of *P. saxicola* growing to an average height of 1.5 metres, with grey-green linear leaves and light mauve flowers that had bright yellow dots and deeper mauve striations in the throat.

All the plants of *P. teretifolia* that I observed had flowers that were the typical mauve form. I stuck to my proposed route. The valley walls continued to close in, with huge granite outcrops everywhere. Most areas of exposed rock contained at least a few plants of *P. teretifolia*. I came to another drop looking into Oaky Creek. The view was impressive and the flora below this sizeable waterfall looked like dry rainforest species. I decided to start my return journey and picked out an interesting route to incorporate the area below the Falls.

The spur at the junction of a creek at the Falls proved a quick and interesting route. Further large populations of *P. saxicola* were observed, always on skeletal soils. A very interesting *Helichrysum* grew along my route some what resembling a vigorous form of *H. collinum*, a species becoming increasingly rare around the sandstone areas of southern Sydney. At the top of the ridge, large areas of exposed granite were common. Most had populations of *P. teretifolia*, especially if they were the upper seepage areas for creeks or swamps. In two of these sights, I observed a number of white flowering plants struggling for existence. Unfortunately, albino forms of mints in the wild seem to be often in such condition. After crossing a number of swampy areas, I reached the Four-wheel Drive Track and after a short stroll, I reached the car. I prepared the cutting material before returning to Sydney the following day.





UNDER THE LENS

Notes on the *Prostantheras* of Western Australia

Barry Conn

Royal Botanic Gardens
Sydney, NSW

Finally the revision of *Prostanthera* for the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia has been published in the *Nuytsia* (the Western Australian Herbarium journal) volume 6, number 3 (Conn 1988). In the previous *Newsletter* (no. 14), I presented an article on the *Prostantheras* of South Australia.

I will present a key to the Western Australian species in a future issue of our *Newsletter*. Here, I wish to present two interesting Western Australian species that are new to science.

1. *Prostanthera althoferi* Conn

It was a great honour to name this *Prostanthera* after Mr George W. Althofer. His contribution to the cultivation of Australian plants and, in particular, his profound admiration of the genus *Prostanthera*, has significantly increased public awareness of the Australian flora. Although George has not seen this species in

the field, its beauty is such that I felt it worthy of commemorating his name.

The following brief description summarizes the characteristic features of this species.

Erect shrub, 0.5-3 m high. *Branches* appearing silvery grey-green, densely hairy, with appressed hairs. *Leaves* silvery grey-green, densely hairy; petiole absent or up to 0.4 mm long; lamina narrowly obovate to linear, rarely obovate, 7.3-36 (-43) mm long, 1.2-2.5 (-3.4) mm wide, base attenuate, margin entire, apex obtuse or rarely subrounded. *Inflorescence* 4-20-flowered per conflorescence. *Pedicel* 0.9-3.3 (-4.2) mm long; prophylls narrowly oblong to linear, 0.7-3.6 mm long. *Calyx* green to cream-coloured with maroon tinge; tube 1.8-4 mm long, outer surface moderately to densely hairy; inner surface glabrous or sparsely hairy in mouth; lobes moderately to densely hairy, abaxial lobe (1.2-) 1.8-2.9 mm long, 2-4 mm wide; adaxial lobe (2-) 3.4-5.6 mm long, 2.6-6.5 mm wide. *Corolla* 6.5-9 (-10) mm long, white to cream-coloured, or very pale yellow-green, with mauve or purple (to pink) striations on inner surface of tube and/or mouth and base of lobes; tube 3.4-6.5 mm long. *Stamens* with anthers connective extended to form a basal appendage 0.3-1 mm long. *Fruiting calyx* enlarged.

This species occurs in the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia. Two subspecies are recognized:

Key to Subspecies

- 1a. Lamina 7.3-16 mm long [length to width ratio (2.5-)3.2-9.1]; anthers not cristate dorsally; inner surface of calyx with an occasional gland
ssp. **althoferi**
- 1b. Lamina (17-)20-36(-41.5) mm long [length to width ratio 9.2-60 (-83)]; anthers cristate dorsally (at least some anthers in each flower); inner surface of calyx moderately glandular
ssp. **longifolia**

1a. subspecies **althoferi**

This subspecies is endemic to Western Australia. It occurs on red sandy soils, often associated with rocky areas (granitic outcrops and granite breakaways) and lateritic soils, with *Acacia aneura*, *Allocasuarina* spp., *Dodonaea* spp., *Eremophila* spp., *Eucalyptus pyriformis* and *spinifex*.

1b. subspecies **longifolia** Conn

This subspecies occurs in the Central South region of the Northern Territory, and the Northern Arid and Western Pastoral regions, plus Eyre Peninsula, of South Australia. This taxon was referred to as "*Prostanthera* sp. B" in the article on the *Prostantheras* of South Australia in the last number of the *Newsletter* (no. 14). This subspecies occurs in sandy soils, on sand plains, sand dunes or in interdunal areas, or on well-drained granitic loamy soils of stony hills, with *Acacia aneura*, *A. quadrimarginea*, *Aristida browniana*, *Eragrostis eriopoda*, *Eremophila* spp., *Triodia* spp. and *Thryptomene maisonuevii*.

Note: I gave a living specimen of *Prostanthera althoferi* subsp. *althoferi* to Mr George Althofer. This plant was grown from cuttings off the type bush.



***Prostanthera verticillata* Conn**

A *Prostanthera* with whorled leaves! Impossible!

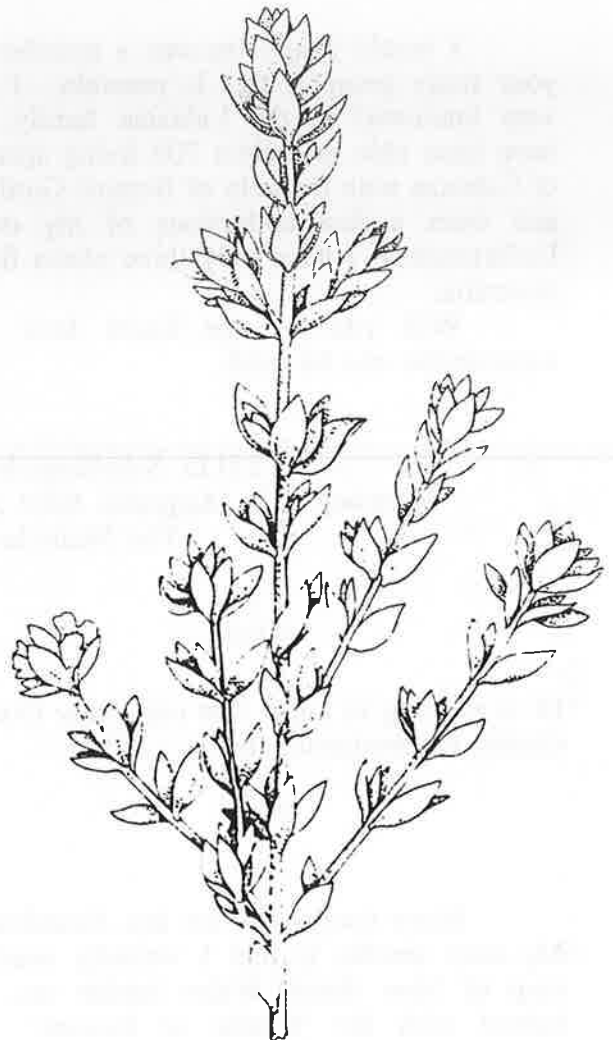
The late Mr Ken Newbey collected a whorled-leaved *Prostanthera* from near Albany (W.A.). The following brief description presents the distinctive features of this new species.

Shrub c. 1.2 m high. *Branches* moderately to densely hairy, silvery distally; hairs appressed to subpatent, white. *Leaves* whorled, arranged in 3's or 4's, light to mid green, very sparsely hairy basally, distally with an occasional hair or glabrous; petiole absent or less than 1 mm long; lamina ovate to elliptic, 9.5-11 mm long, 4-6 mm wide; base acute to very shortly attenuate; margin entire, slightly recurved; apex obtuse. *Inflorescence* c. 6-8-flowered per conflorescence. *Pedicel* c. 2 mm long, densely hairy; prophylls inserted on distal half of pedicel, narrowly ovate, 4.1-4.8 mm long, sparsely hairy. *Calyx* ?green; tube c. 3.5 mm long, outer surface sparsely hairy, inner surface glabrous or with an occasional hair at mouth; abaxial lobe c. 2 mm long; adaxial lobe 4-4.5 mm long. *Corolla* 9-12 mm long, probably white; outer surface glabrous on tube to base of lobes, moderately to densely hairy on lobes. *Stamens* with anthers cristate dorsally and connective extended to form a basal appendage 1.1-1.2 mm long. Appendage terminating in 3 or 4 narrowly triangular trichomes. *Fruits* not known.

This very rare species, only known by the type collection, occurs in granitic loamy soils.

Reference:

Conn, B.J. (1988). A taxonomic revision of *Prostanthera* Labill. section *Prostanthera* (Labiatae). 1. The species of the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia. *Nuytsia* 6(3): 351-411.



CORRESPONDENCE



Dear Brian,

I would gladly become a member of your study group if this is possible. I am very interested in the Labiatae family. I have been able to collect 700 living species of Labiatae with the help of Botanic Gardens and from a few collections of my own. Unfortunately, I have only three plants from Australia.

Will you let me know how the subscription can be paid.

J.H.D. Schellingerhout
Ryhsweg 122, Margraten 6269 AD
The Netherlands

[It is exciting to know that our Study Group creates international interest. - Eds]

Many thanks for the last *Newsletter*. My only trouble is that I virtually need a map of New South Wales beside me, as indeed with the 'Cradle of Incense'. I simply have a blank where New South Wales is concerned. I do hope to get to Burrendong, among lots of other places. I have a *Prostanthera lanceolata*, leaf nearly sessile and 3.5-4 inches long. The 'Cradle of Incense' suggests it is a form of *P. ovalifolia*. What is the current position? I also had a *P. cineolifera* but am not too sure

if it has come with me when I shifted.

[The taxonomic status of the above three taxa is not fully understood. The clearly very closely related. - Ed.]

The prostantheras as a group have again struck well and come with me, but the labels got mixed and I will have to wait for flowers to see how my colour forms have worked out. I know that I have lost some forms.

Your conditions at Berrima sound fairly similar to those at Myrree. Although last winter was mild, we can terrific frosts too. Your article on frost hardiness in the last *Newsletter* is very welcome.

I had three plants that had very similar leaves, namely *P. teretifolia*, '*P. rhylistonii*' and a plant 'from Rhyllstone'. The first two plants had mauve flowers, whereas the latter one had pink flowers. Can you make sense of this or shall I just wait patiently until they flower again?

[It is all too easy to miss-identify specimens even when you have the plant in front of you. Therefore, I would prefer to wait until you can send me some pressed and dried material of each. - Ed.]

Your use of parentheses for "*P. gilesii*" sent me back to the 'Cradle of Incense' and sorted another problem out for me at the same time. The plant I knew as "*P. gilesii*" was growing next to what I bought as *P. phyllicifolia*, but puzzled me because the flowers were mauve. Now, I

think that I probably have *P. scutellarioides* and *P. sp. aff. phyllicifolia*. The leaves are somewhat similar, so I am going to have a deal of trouble sorting them out, especially as only some cuttings are labelled.

Now I have a confession and a boast. The boast first! In Esperance, during the spring of 1987, I collected what I now deduce to be *P. canaliculata*. The real credit goes to Gwenda McDonald who persuaded it to grow, and gave me a very healthy specimen. It flowered for a long period this spring - not a massed display, but better than I remember it in the wild. By nipping tips, I think I have persuaded it to grow a little more densely too. The leaves are about 15 mm long and very narrow. They are a pleasant dark green colour. The smallish flowers are white, in proportion to give a good dainty to small plant. The confession, of course, is that the records are all only in my memory. It came from Jerdacuttup in a granite outcrop area - how often does one read that in the 'Cradle of Incense'? I think the soil was heavy, heavy for the area, but I did see it elsewhere, possibly on gravel. *Helichrysum obtusifolium* var. *tephroides* was one associate, but there were so many others.

My excuses are 'floral indigestion' - my term for trying to cope with a wealth of unknown wonders and having to fit my plant hunting into the family activities! However, our son lives in Esperance, so we hope to spend a lot of time there. I am already beginning to sort the plants out a bit. I have a cousin, Thelma Daniell who has lived in Esperance for over 20 years and has always been a flower person. She collects for various people and told me earlier on that she had only just become aware of the *Prostantheras* and *Westringias* in the area. So, I hope to be a bit more organized in the future. I also wondered if there were any specific plants/places I could try and get (to)

for you or Barry? We will be going in April/May probably and I would dearly hope again in the Spring. Apart from the usual flowers, we have 3 little grand daughters growing up there. This perhaps explains why I wonder if I'll ever get to Burrendong and the rest. I also have a daughter at Lakes Entrance (East Gippsland) on the fringe of the Victorian mint area.

Barbara Buchanan
Myrree, Vic

[We would like living and dried specimens of any Western Australian Labiatae. Most species of this family are poorly represented in Australian Herbaria. Naturally, we would like to build up our living collections in the Study Group, as well. Therefore, any species would be gratefully received. - Eds]



[In the above letter from Barbara Buchanan she refers to our use of parentheses around species names. We use parentheses whenever a taxa (e.g. species, subspecies or variety) is known by a name that has not be officially published. "*P. gilesii*" and "*P. rhylistonii*" are two examples. These are not true scientific names, but rather are names that have been used in the horticultural trade. Sometimes such names are eventually formally applied to a particular plant, but there is no reason why they have to be used - Eds]

