Nuytsia 4 (1): 5-7 (1982)

A new species of *Eremophila* (Myoporaceae) endemic to the Wongan Hills, Western Australia

R. J. Chinnock

State Herbarium, Botanic Gardens, North Terrace, Adelaide, S.A. 5000

Abstract

Chinnock, R. J. A new species of *Eremophila* (Myoporaceae) endemic to the Wongan Hills, Western Australia. Nuytsia 4 (1): 5-7 (1982). *Eremophila ternifolia* Chinnock is described and illustrated. This species is characterised by having leaves in whorls of 3 and fruit in which the two carpels are unequal and free in the upper half. The species is considered endangered, although it is established in cultivation.

Eremophila ternifolia Chinnock, sp. nov. (Figure 1)

Frutex humilis *ramis* complanatis in plano uno. *Folia* ternato-verticillata lanceolata vel elliptica acuta raro obtusa. *Sepala* 4 vel 5 linearia vel anguste triangularia. *Corolla* lilacina maculata purpurea pubescentia. *Fructus* manifeste rostratus, duo carpella inaequalia dimidio superiore libero.

Typus: Wongan Hills, SE of Mt Matilda, on Conway's property, 11 Dec. 1980, *B. R. Maslin* 4805, (holo: PERTH; iso: AD, CANB).

Low spreading *shrub* 0.3-0.5 x 0.5-0.7 m. *Branches* opposite, subopposite, or alternate, flattened into one plane, non-tuberculate, hirsute but with numerous shorter glandular hairs. *Leaves* sessile, in whorls of 3, the whorls alternate; lamina green above, often reddish-brown below and on the margins, lanceolate to elliptic, acute, broadly acute or rarely obtuse, entire, 6-11 x 2.7-4 mm, glabrous. *Flowers* solitary, sessile. *Sepals* 4 or 5 sometimes the 5th one vestigial, free almost to the base, linear to narrowly triangular, swollen and corky at the base, green to reddish-brown, becoming prominently veined at fruiting stage and curving over fruit, 3-4.6 x 0.5-1 (-1.3) mm, glandular-pubescent on both surfaces. *Corolla* to 10 mm long, lilac, the tube white below, spotted purple inside, pubescent outside, prominently bearded on the lowermost lobe inside extending down the tube; lobes obtuse. *Stamens* 4, included, but the anthers extending to the throat, glabrous; filaments pale lilac, stamens blue. *Ovary* ovoid, 1.2-1.5 x c. 1 mm, bilobed, bilocular with one ovule per loculus, pubescent; the hairs around the apex short glandular, those below longer, eglandular. *Fruit* dry, indehiscent, prominently beaked, the carpels unequal and free in the upper half, 2.3-3.2 x 2.2-2.8 mm, hirsute. *Seed* small, ovoid, pale yellowish-white, 1.8 x 0.6 mm.

Other specimens examined. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Conways Farm in the Wongan Hills, *J. S. Beard* 8003 (PERTH); E side of the Wongan Hills behind Conways property "Dunmoor", 8 km N of township Wongan Hills, *K. F. Kenneally* 7532 (PERTH).

Distribution. Known only from the Wongan Hills, 8 km N of the township.

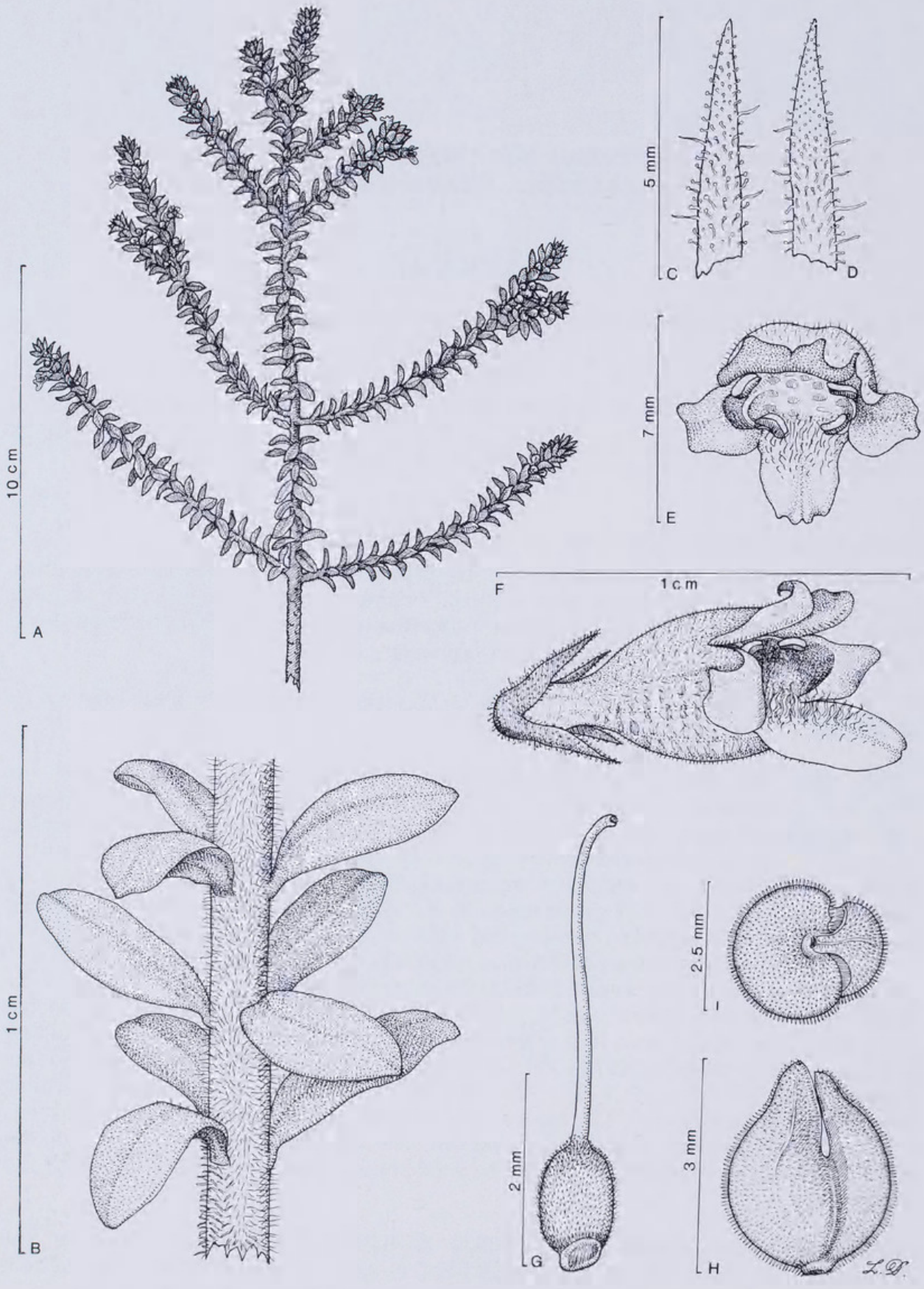

Figure 1. *Eremophila ternifolia*. A—Habit of major branch, branched in one plane. B—Portion of branch showing the ternate leaf arrangement. C and D—Outer and inner surface of sepal. E and F—front and side view of flower. G—Gynoecium. H and I—Side and top view of mature fruit. A—G from *Maslin* 4805 (Holotype); H—I from *Kenneally* 7532.

Ecology. Eremophila ternifolia is the second endemic *Eremophila* to be described from the Wongan Hills and like the other one, *E. sargentii* (S. Moore) Chinnock, it is extremely rare. Mr. K. F. Kenneally, who first found this species estimated that the total population consisted of approximately 70 plants. Both these species have a conservation status of 2V according to the Leigh, Briggs & Hartley (1981) classification for rare or threatened plants.

The species grows in *Eucalyptus longicornis/salubris* woodland with scattered mallees (*E. gracilis*) under a shrub layer of *Santalum acuminatum, Melaleuca adnata* and *Acacia orbifolia* on red clays between breakaways.

Affinities. Eremophila veronica is allied to *E. ternifolia* but differs in having small, densely spiral, linear subterete leaves which are flattened on the upper side and an ovoid fruit which is not split in the upper part.

Cultivation. Eremophila ternifolia has been established in cultivation in Adelaide from live material collected by Bruce Maslin. The species is easily obtained from cuttings and rooted plants can be obtained in 1 to 2 months with a 80-90 per cent success rate using a 1:1 peat/coarse sand medium.

Acknowledgements

I thank Kevin Kenneally and Bruce Maslin for collecting material and Ludwik Dutkiewicz for the illustration.

Reference

Leigh, J., Briggs, J. & Hartley, W. (1981). 'Rare or Threatened Australian Plants.' Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service Special Publication 7.

16559—(2)