SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Succowia balearica (Brassicaceae): a new and potentially serious weed in Western Australia

In 1992 the author collected (voucher *Keighery* 11030) an unknown vigorous twining annual vine superficially similar to *Fumaria capreolata* L. (Fumariaceae), but with yellow flowers and spiny fruits (Figure 1). The plants were growing in *Banksia* woodland below Reabold Hill in Bold Regional Park, 8 km west of Perth. It was subsequently identified as *Succowia balearica* (L.) Medicus, a native of the western Mediterranean. This population on Reabold Hill was then destroyed.

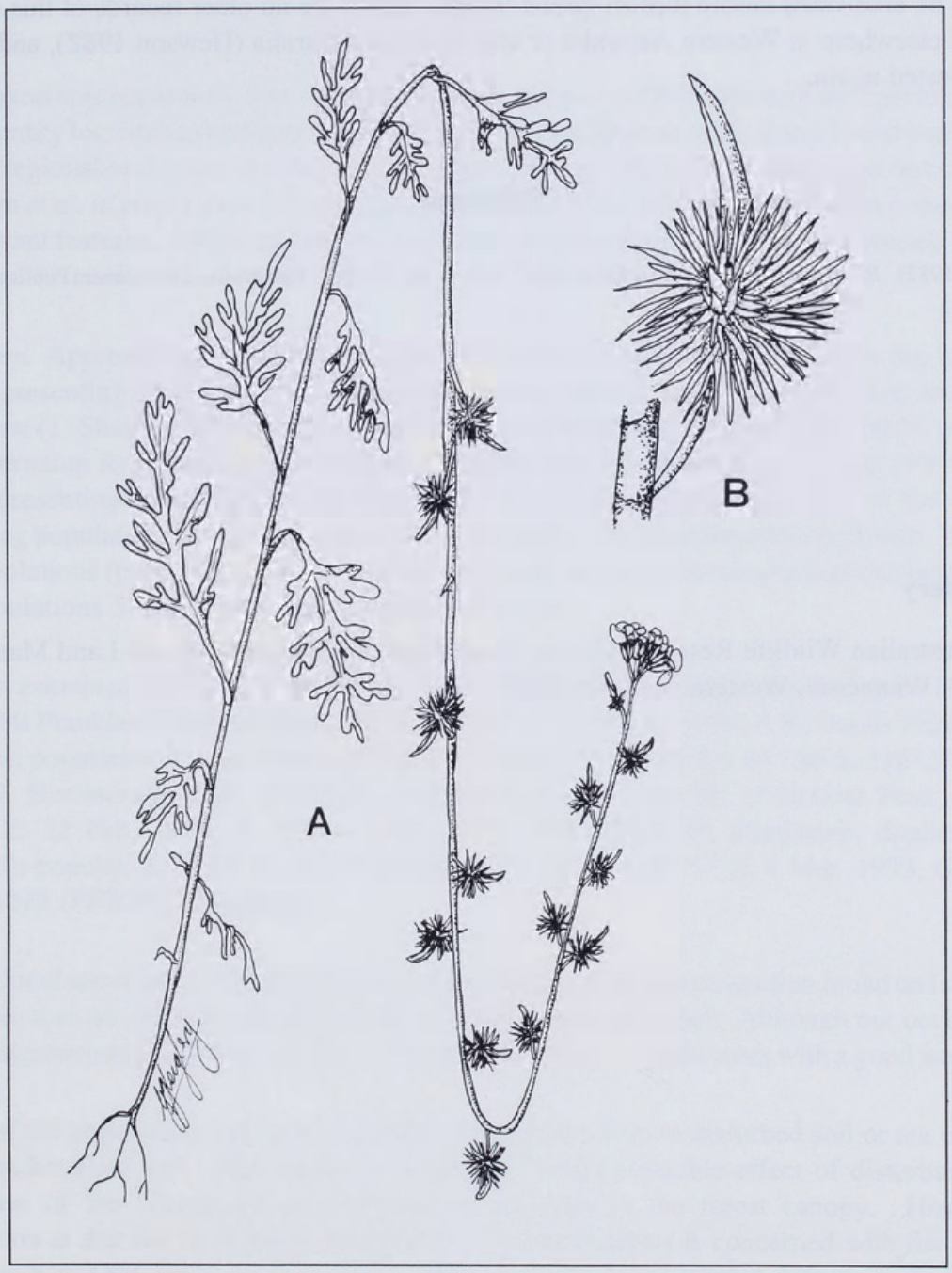

Figure 1. *Succowia balearica* A - habit (x0.5), B - mature fruit (x2). Drawn from *G.J. Keighery* 11030.

In 1993 further plants of this species were located on Mount Eliza (vouchers *Keighery* 12329 and 14367), and the source became clear. Material of this species had been planted in the Mediterranean garden of Kings Park and Botanic Garden. Presumably a visitor had inadvertantly transferred fruits from Kings Park to Reabold Hill, possibly on his clothing.

By 1995 the species was found to be well established on Mount Eliza below the botanic gardens, through the old Swan Brewery site to the edge of the Kennedy Fountain gardens, in *Dryandra sessilis* and *Acacia* shrubland and *Callitris preissii* and Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) woodland.

This species is obviously able to naturalize readily in the Perth area, and be readily transported. It is potentially a serious weed to much of the vegetation of the western side of the Swan Coastal Plain and should be eradicated before further spread occurs. There are no other records of this species as naturalized elsewhere in Western Australia or elsewhere in Australia (Hewson 1982), and it should not be imported again.

Reference

Hewson, H. (1982). *Brassicaceae. In:* "Flora of Australia." Vol. 8. pp. 231-357. (Australian Government Publishing Service: Canberra.)

G.J. Keighery

Western Australian Wildlife Research Centre, Department of Conservation and Land Management, PO Box 51, Wanneroo, Western Australia 6065

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