

CORREAS AND BORONIAS IN OUR AREA – DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

... Ellinor Campbell

This article is based on a presentation by Gail Slykhuis to the ANGAIR Microscope Group.

The Rutaceae Family is widely distributed in temperate and tropical regions throughout the world. Several genera, such as the citrus group, have edible fruits. There are forty-one genera in Australia, but some are restricted in their distribution, e.g. *Correa* is not found in Western Australia, and only two genera are found in our district, the *Correa* and *Boronia*.

Characteristics of the Rutaceae Family

Rutaceae are herbs, shrubs or trees with glands dotted on stems and leaves. Aromatic when crushed. Flowers have regularly spaced petals and are bisexual. Fruit are dry and leathery.

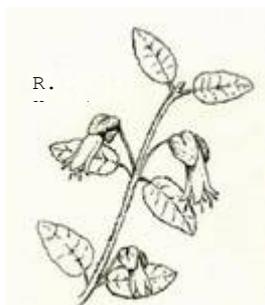
Characteristics of Correas

The leaves are opposite, simple and entire, or round and toothed. There are star-like stellate hairs on the young branches, leaves and flowers. The flowers are terminal or axillary, usually drooping, and solitary or two or three



Correa reflexa var. *speciosa*

together. The four sepals are fused into a cup at the base of the flower. The petals are fused for most of the length or sometimes separating. There are eight stamens with broad bases.



Correa reflexa var. *reflexa*

Two *Correa* grow in our district. Both are quite common shrubs, and have two varieties.

The flowers of Common *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa* and Eastern *Correa reflexa* var. *speciosa* are red with greenish tips or yellowish-green. The obvious difference is with the two, paired leaves at the base of the flower. Variety *reflexa* has the leaves facing towards, or clasping the flower, and in variety *speciosa*, the two base leaves face away from the flower.

We are told that the Anglesea species *Correa reflexa* var. *speciosa* is different again, and may one day have its own variety name. The green form, which is less common, and mainly grows close to the coast, also has attracted botanical interest.

White *Correa* *Correa alba* var. *alba* and *Correa alba* var. *pannosa* are dense coastal shrubs, bearing white flowers with spreading petals. Variety *pannosa* has flowers without stalks, rounder leaves than variety *alba*, and the upper surfaces of the leaves are hairier, while the undersides are thick and coarse compared with the short, fine hairs on variety *alba*.



Correa alba var.

Characteristics of Boronia

These are small-to-medium sized shrubs, which may be highly perfumed,

and this scent may protect the plant from herbivorous animals. The flowers have four petals and eight stamens. The fruits contain hard, waxy seeds.



Boronia nana var.

Dwarf *Boronia* *Boronia nana* var. *hyssopifolia* and Dwarf *Boronia* *Boronia nana* var. *nana* are low growing, and not common, but widespread in heathland and heathy, open woodland. The waxy, pale-pink or white flowers are solitary, or in a terminal or axillary cluster. The petals and sepals open out like *Correa alba* var. *alba*.

Leaves are also opposite, but may be divided into leaflets. Var. *nana* has compound leaves with three to five small leaflets, and var. *hyssopifolia* has single simple leaves.



Boronia nana var. *hyssopifolia*

References:

1. Enid Mayfield, 2013 *Flora of the Otway Plain and Ranges 2 – Daisies, Heaths, Peas, Saltbushes, Sundews, Wattles and Other Shrubby and Herbaceous Dicotyledons*. CSIRO PUBLISHING, Melbourne
2. Ian Clarke & Helen Lee, 1998, *Name that Flower The Identification of Flowering Plants*. MUP Carlton Victoria.
3. MacDonald, Margaret (ed) 2009, *Flowers of Anglesea and Aireys Inlet*, ANGAIR Inc., Anglesea

Copyright

Any article or information appearing in this *Newsletter* may be copied to further interest in the conservation of native flora and fauna or in environmental care, provided that the source and contributor(s) are acknowledged.