

Towards an eGuide for Western Australian Wildflowers

Bronwen and Greg Keighery



Up to 10 images with captions are key

- 1 'flower' most commonly noticed part plant
- 2 plant
- 3 detail flower/leaf
- 4 detail flower/leaf
- 5 Fruit.
- 6 Seedling
- 7 Bark/Bushland view
- 8 variations/pollination
- 9 variations/pollination
- 10 Diagnostic

eGuide Wildflowers - Images

Kara (Cara or Milkmaids), *Burchardia congesta*



1 'flower'



2 plant

- **1 'flower':** *Burchardia congesta* flowers showing yellow anthers. October, Hartfield Park.
- **2 plant:** An excavated *Burchardia congesta* plant showing leaves, flower/fruit stem (notice bracts up the stem) and white fleshy tubers. October, Duncraig (before this bushland was cleared).
- **3 detail flower/leaf:** *Burchardia congesta* flowers showing yellow anthers and a green rather than red ovary. September, Mogumber.
- **4 detail flower/leaf:** *Burchardia congesta* with yet to open yellow anthers and buds. August, near Jurien.



4 flower

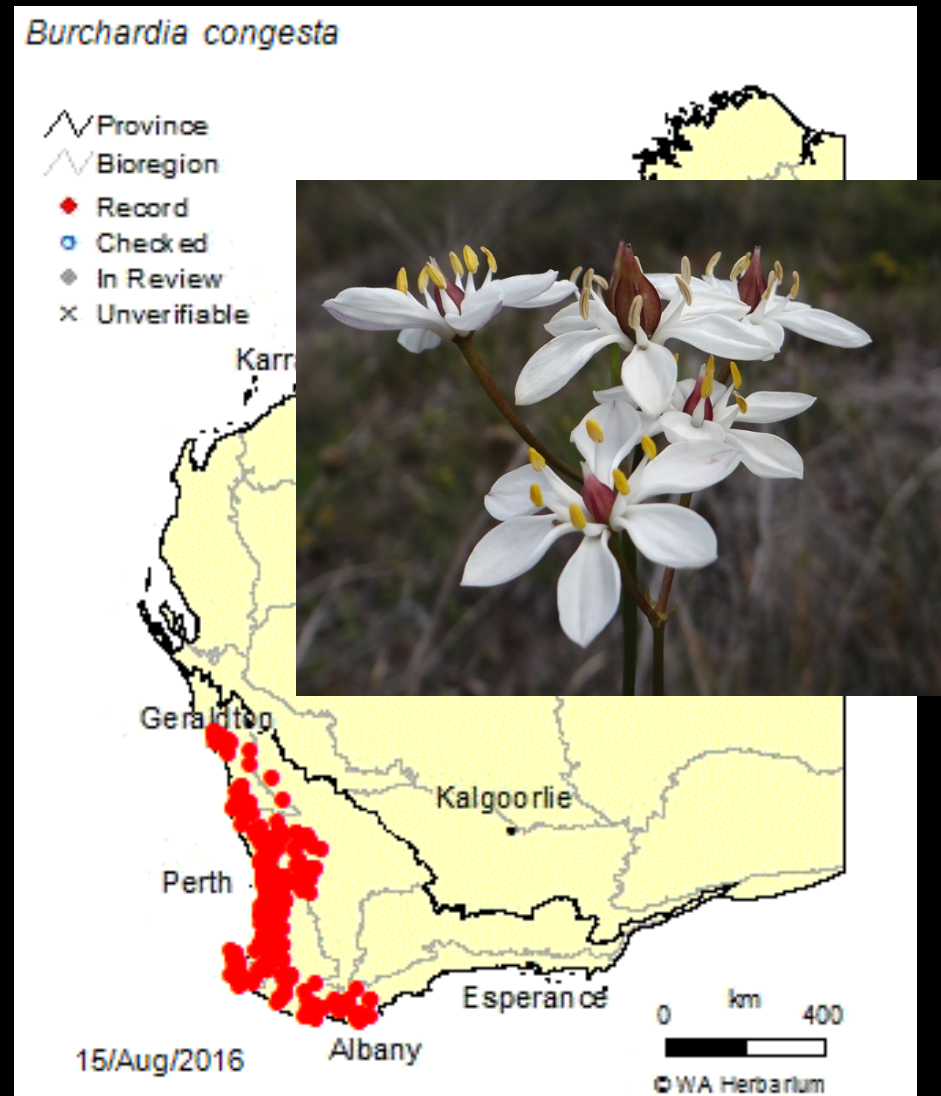


3 flower

eGuide Wildflowers: searchable characters

Kara (Cara or Milkmaids), *Burchardia congesta*

- Name Id 12770
- Weed No
- Family
Colchicaceae
- *Burchardia congesta*
- Species Common
names (3)
- Where
- Flowering time
- Plant
- Flowers and fruit
- Leaves



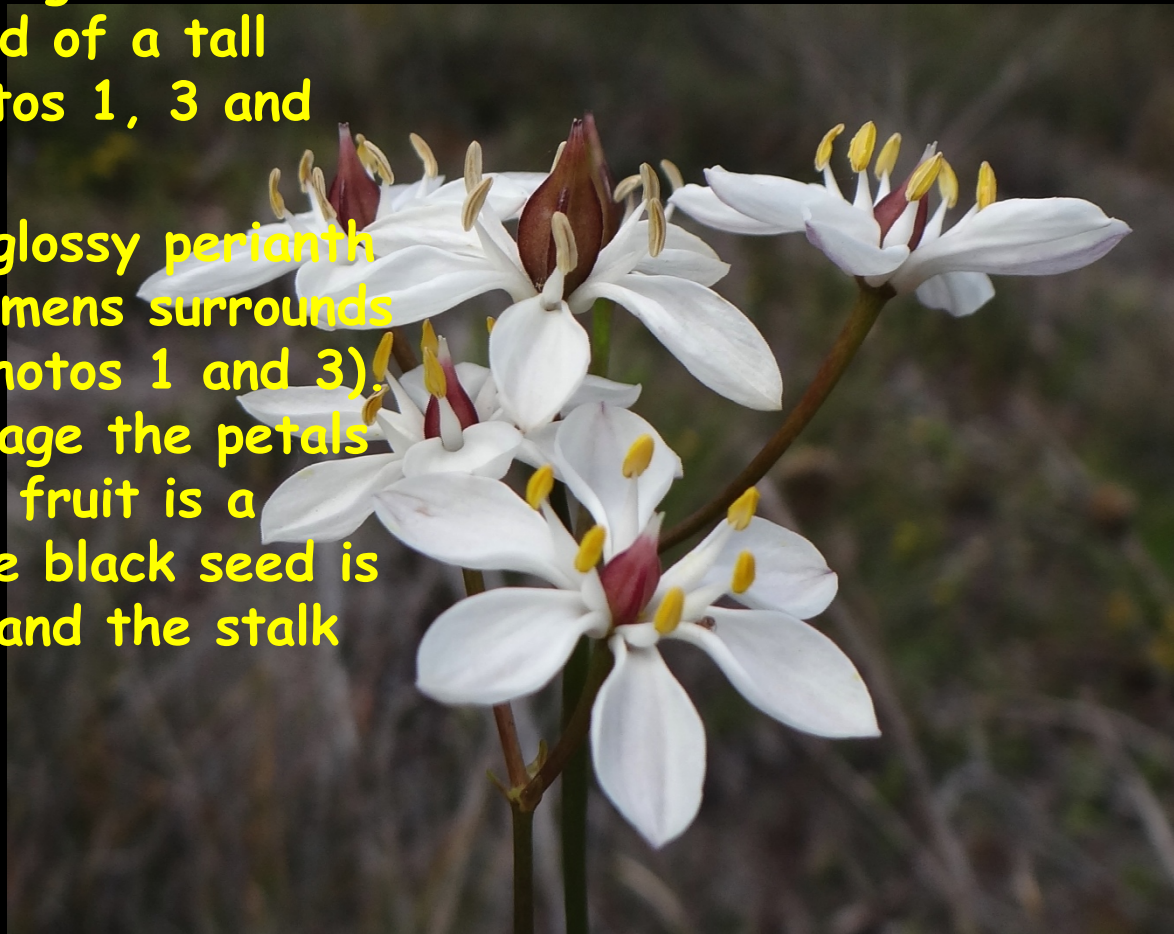
eGuide Wildflowers - text field, unlimited length

Example Kara (Cara or Milkmaids), *Burchardia congesta*

Species characters

Burchardia congesta has large white flowers grouped at the end of a tall green or brown stem (Photos 1, 3 and 4).

Each flower has 6 thick glossy perianth 'petals'. The ring of 6 stamens surrounds the three lobed ovary. (Photos 1 and 3). As the pollinated flowers age the petals and stamens drop and the fruit is a three sided (Photo 4). The black seed is released in early summer and the stalk and leaves die and dry.

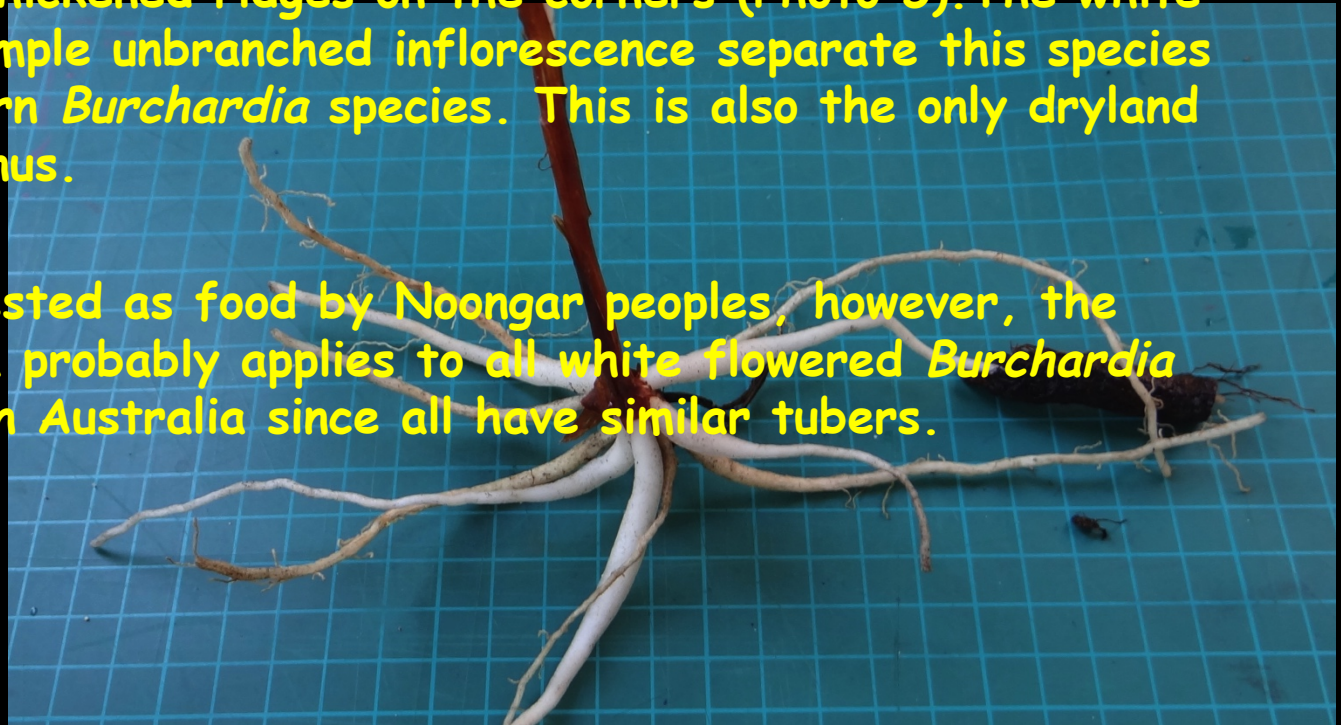


eGuide Wildflowers - text field, unlimited length
Kara (Cara or Milkmaids), *Burchardia congesta*

Species characters (continued)

Burchardia congesta was previously placed with the Australia wide *B. umbellata*, now restricted to eastern Australia. Differs from this species in having yellow (Photos 1 and 3) not purple anthers and the fruit with raised thickened ridges on the corners (Photo 5). The white flowers and the simple unbranched inflorescence separate this species from other Western *Burchardia* species. This is also the only dryland member of the genus.

Tubers were harvested as food by Noongar peoples, however, the name Cara or Kara probably applies to all white flowered *Burchardia* species of Western Australia since all have similar tubers.

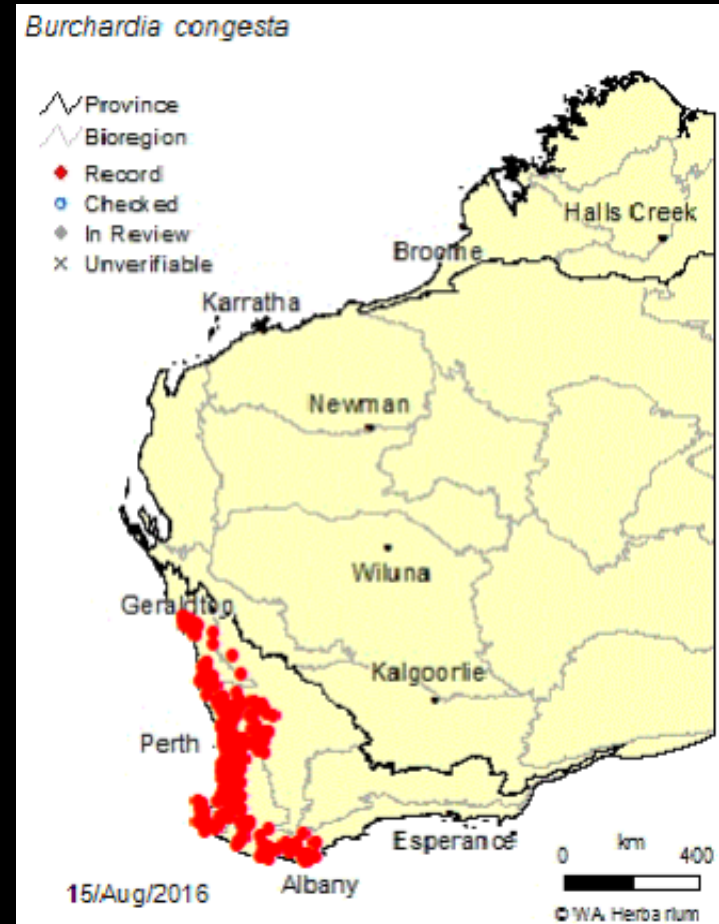


eGuide Wildflowers - searchable fields, text field unlimited length

Kara (Cara or Milkmaids), *Burchardia congesta*

WHERE

- **Distribution** Australia Southwest
- **WA BIOREGION:** Avon Wheatbelt, Esperance Plains, Geraldton Sandplains, Jarrah Forest, Swan Coastal Plain, Warren.
- **WA Distribution description:**
Northampton to the Stirling Ranges
- **Habitat** wetland dry
- **Habitat soil** All
- **Habitat rock** All
- **Plant community** NA
- **Tips to find** In summer the old flower stems show where a plant grew. Several long green leaves appear in winter after the rain, but plants are best found when flowering in spring.



eGuide Wildflowers - search fields, text field

Kara (Cara or Milkmaids), *Burchardia congesta*

FLOWERING TIME

- Male and female plants/flowers NA
- Flowers from July
- Flowers to September

- Comment: Most plants flower about the same time forming a knee high layer in the bushland. In the spring after a fire every plant flowers at once making a spectacular display.

PLANT

- Growth form herb
- Height knee
- Life form annually renewed perennial
- Parasite/Carnivorous NA



eGuide Wildflowers - FLOWERS AND FRUIT

Inflorescence: NA cluster branched wattle brush umbel
daisy banksia

Flower Petals: NA no petals petal 3 petal 4 petal 5 petal 6
modified

Flower Shape: NA saucer modified tubed, pea orchid,
eucalypt, wind

Colour shade 1 & 2: NA yellow orange white cream red pink
blue purple green brown grey black

Multiple colours 1 & 2: NA yellow orange white cream red
pink blue purple green brown grey black

Pollination: wind water insect insect buzz insect deception
bird mammal insect/bird mammal/bird

Fruit (mature): Succulent, awned, winged, pod, dry thin dry
woody gumnut

eGuide Wildflowers - searchable fields, text field

Kara (Cara or Milkmaids), *Burchardia congesta*

FLOWERS AND FRUIT

Inflorescence	umbel
Flower Petals	petal 6
Flower Shape	saucer
Colour shade 1	white
Colour shade 2	NA
Multiple colours 1	NA
Multiple colours 2	NA
Pollination:	Insects



Pollination: Open flowers are pollinated by flies and bees.

Fruit (mature) dry thin



eGuide Wildflowers - LEAVES searchable fields,

Leaf group: NA rosette/basal opposite whorls alternate

Leaf type: absent monocot dicot scale phyllode
modified

Leaf size: NA tiny finger-tip finger hand knee hip
waist shoulder head

Leaf/phyllode shape: NA fernlike stemlike needlelike
straplike linear round widest-base widest-tip
widest-middle lobed

Leaf/stem connection: NA stemlike stem clasping
sheath grass

Leaf margins: NA smooth jagged hairs/barbs

Leaf surface: NA hairy smooth rough sticky
hairy/sticky

eGuide Wildflowers - LEAVES searchable fields

Kara (Cara or Milkmaids), *Burchardia congesta*

Leaf group

rosette/basal

Leaf type

monocot

Leaf size

hand

Leaf/phyllode shape

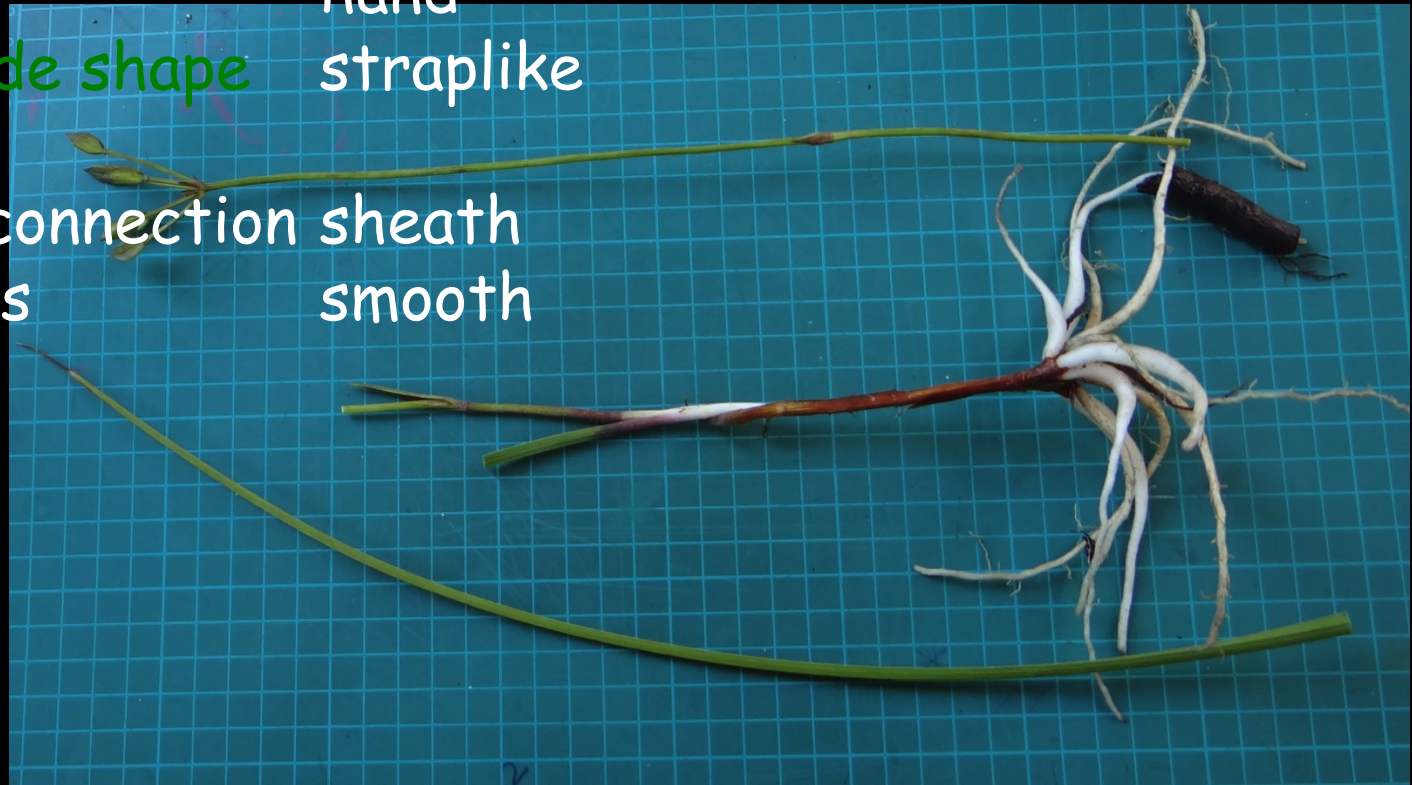
straplike

linear

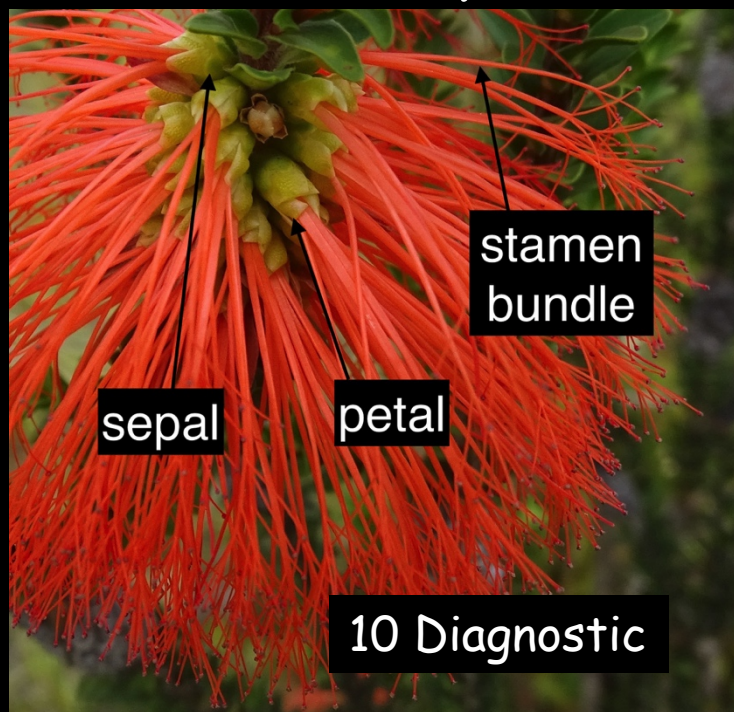
Leaf/stem connection sheath

Leaf margins

smooth



Beaufortia sparsa images



3 flowers and scale



4 flowers



5 fruit



Wildflowers

🔍 Beaufortia Browse page for search under 'Beaufortia' ✕ Cancel



Beaufortia-like Eremaea
Eremaea beaufortiioides

One of up to 10 photos



Dark Beaufortia
Beaufortia anisandra



Gravel Bottlebrush
Beaufortia decussata

Common name



Elegant Beaufortia
Beaufortia elegans

Scientific name

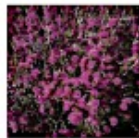
CLICK to go to plant page



Swamp Bottlebrush
Beaufortia sparsa



Sand Beaufortia
Beaufortia squarrosa



Pink Beaufortia
Beaufortia schaueri

Search under any part
of the common or
scientific name or
family



Browse



Identify



Favs



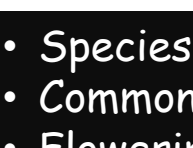




My



Seen

[Back](#)

Elegant Beaufortia



Elegant Beaufortia

Beaufortia elegans

Favourite

My List

Seen

SPECIES CHARACTERS

Beaufortia elegans normally has small numerous terminal heads of pink flowers (Photos 1, 3, 4). But flowers can be white, purple or red (Photo 8). Fruits are oval woody capsules that are held on the plant for a few years (Photo 5).

Beaufortia elegans is a slender open branched erect shrub to 1 metre tall and 1 metre wide (Photo 2). Leaves are rounded opposite folded along the midline with recurved ends (Photo 4).

Beaufortia elegans is distinguished by its small leaves, non-hairy sepals and petals and having 5-7 stamens in each anther bundle.

COMMON NAMES

Elegant Beaufortia

Weed No

Abundance abundant

FLOWERING

Male and female p... N/A

Flowers from Sep to Feb

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Growth form shrub

Height waist

Life form perennial

Parasite/Carnivore Not Applicable

FLOWERS & FRUIT

Inflorescence brush

Flower Petals petal 5

Flower Shape saucer

Colour shade 1 pink

Colour shade 2 Not Applicable

Multiple colours 1 Not Applicable

Multiple colours 2 Not Applicable

Pollination insect

Fruit (mature) dry woody

Species Characteristics

Common Names & Abundance

Flowering

Plant

Flowers and Fruit

Leaves

LEAVES

Leaf group opposite

Leaf type dicot

Leaf size shoulder

Leaf/phyllode shape round

Leaf/stem connect... Not Applicable

Leaf margins smooth

Leaf surface smooth

Beaufortia elegans

Province

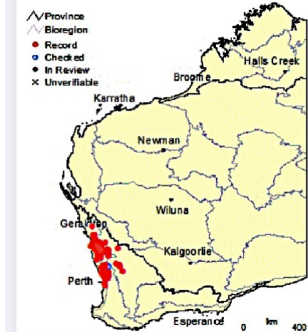
Bioregion

Record

Checked

In Review

Unverifiable



Distribution AU Southwest

WA Bioregion Avon Wheatbelt, Geraldton Sandplains, Jarrah Forest, Swan Coastal Plain


WA Distribution: Mullewa south to Wongan Hills the west to Perth.

Habitat wetland general

Habitat soil sand

Habitat rock Not Applicable

Plant community Not Applicable



Map from FloraBase

Distribution in Australia

WA Bioregions

WA Distribution in words

Habitat - wetland, dryland or both

Habitat soil, rock when applicable

Plant community

Identify page

Wildflowers

HABITAT WETLAND

Wet Dry General

GROWTH FORM



FLOWER COLOUR



INFLORESCENCE



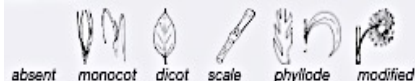
FLOWER SHAPE



FLOWERING SEASON



LEAF TYPE



LEAF GROUP



LEAF SHAPE



DISTRIBUTION AUSTRALIA

Australia Kimberley Top End Cape York Mideast Southeast Victoria South Australia Southwest Pilbara Desert Tasmania



Browse



Identify



Favs



My



Seen

POLLINATION and FERTILISATION

Vascular plant flowers have male and female parts.

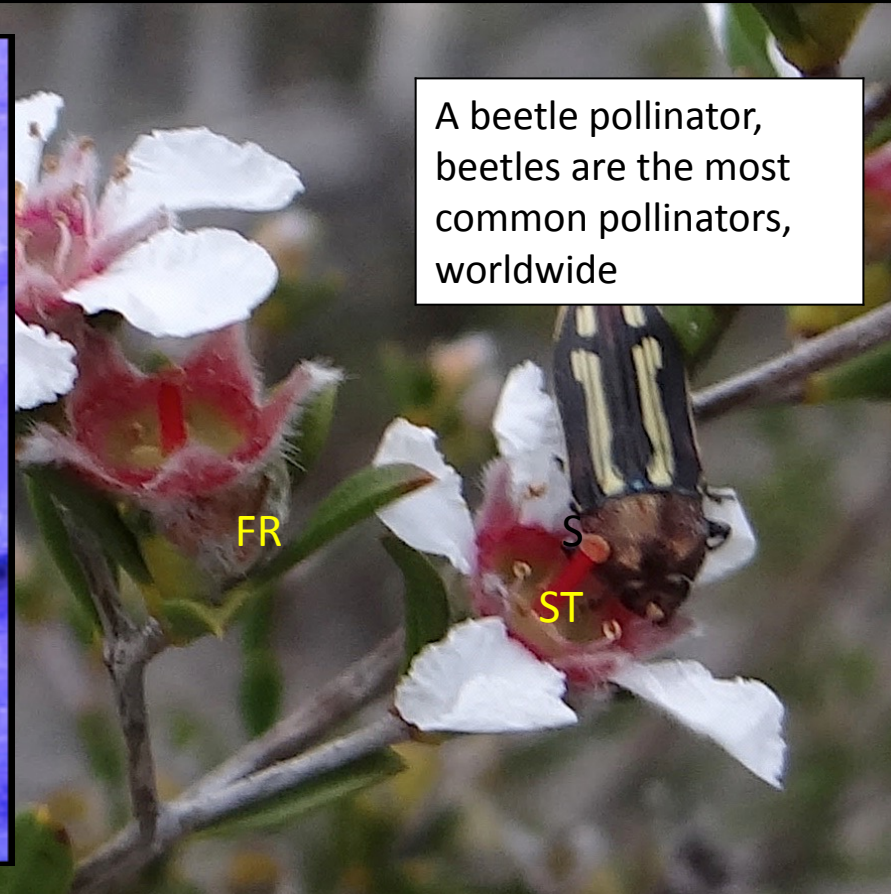
Female - ovary (O) containing ovules or eggs, **style (ST)** and **stigma (S)**.

Male - stamen with **anther (A)** containing pollen, held on a **filament (F)**.

POLLINATION: When the pollen lands on a receptive stigma it grows a tube through the stigma, down the style, into the ovary to meet an ovule (egg). The agent that moves pollen is a pollinator.

FERTILISATION: Within the ovule a male nucleus from the pollen meets with the female nucleus and they fuse to form an embryo. The ovule is like an egg and the male nucleus a sperm.

SEEDS and FRUIT: The embryo becomes the seed and the ovary the **fruit (FR)**.

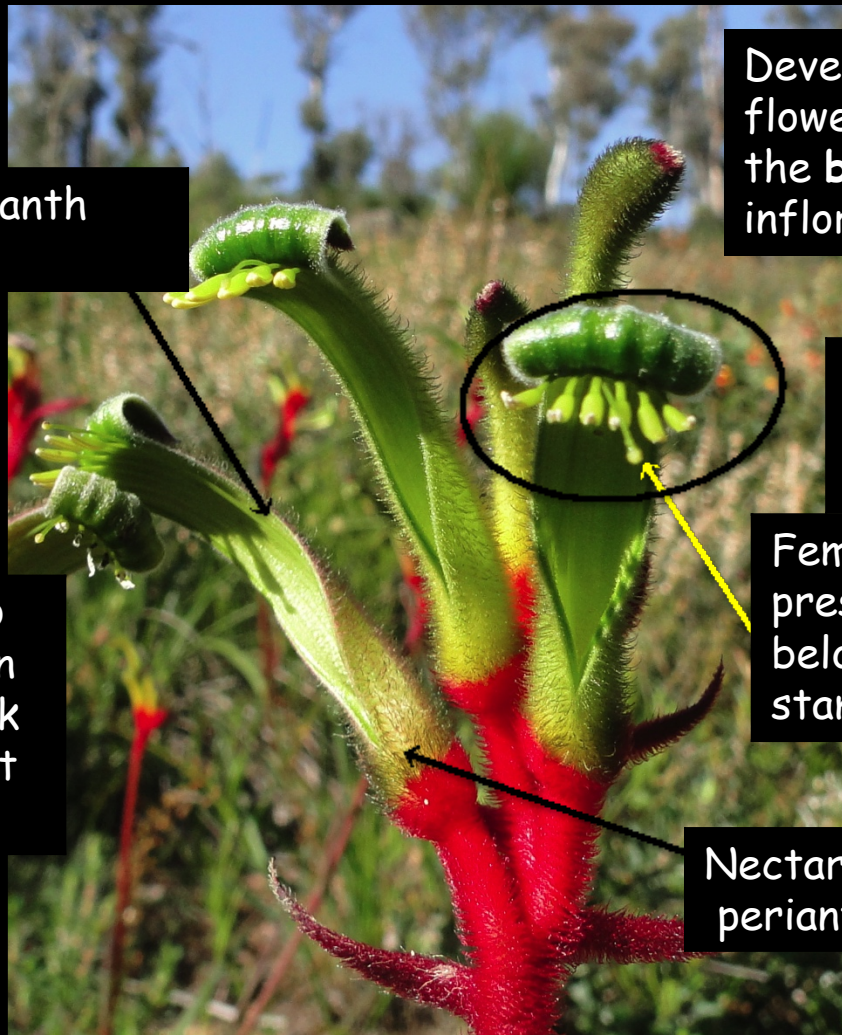




Split perianth tube.

Flowers are two colours and born on a strong stalk that can support a bird.

plant



Developing flower or bud in the brush inflorescence.

Male: 6 stamens in a line.

Female: stigma presented just below the stamens.

Nectar in base of perianth cup

BIRD POLLINATED MONOCOT FLOWER - *Anigozanthos bicolor* (Haemodoraceae). Individual flowers and/or groups of flowers are robust and conspicuous, with lots of nectar. The petals and sepals fused to form a perianth. Anthers present pollen near the end of the split perianth tube just above the stigma at the end of a long style. That is pollen is distributed and deposited around the same place o the bird's head as it searches for nectar.



Bird pollinated flowers



flowers modified to direct pollination

1 petals, sepals and stamens fused

2 robust fused stamen bundles, robust style

3 fused petals, sepals and stamens

Buzz pollinated flowers

Monocot
flowers



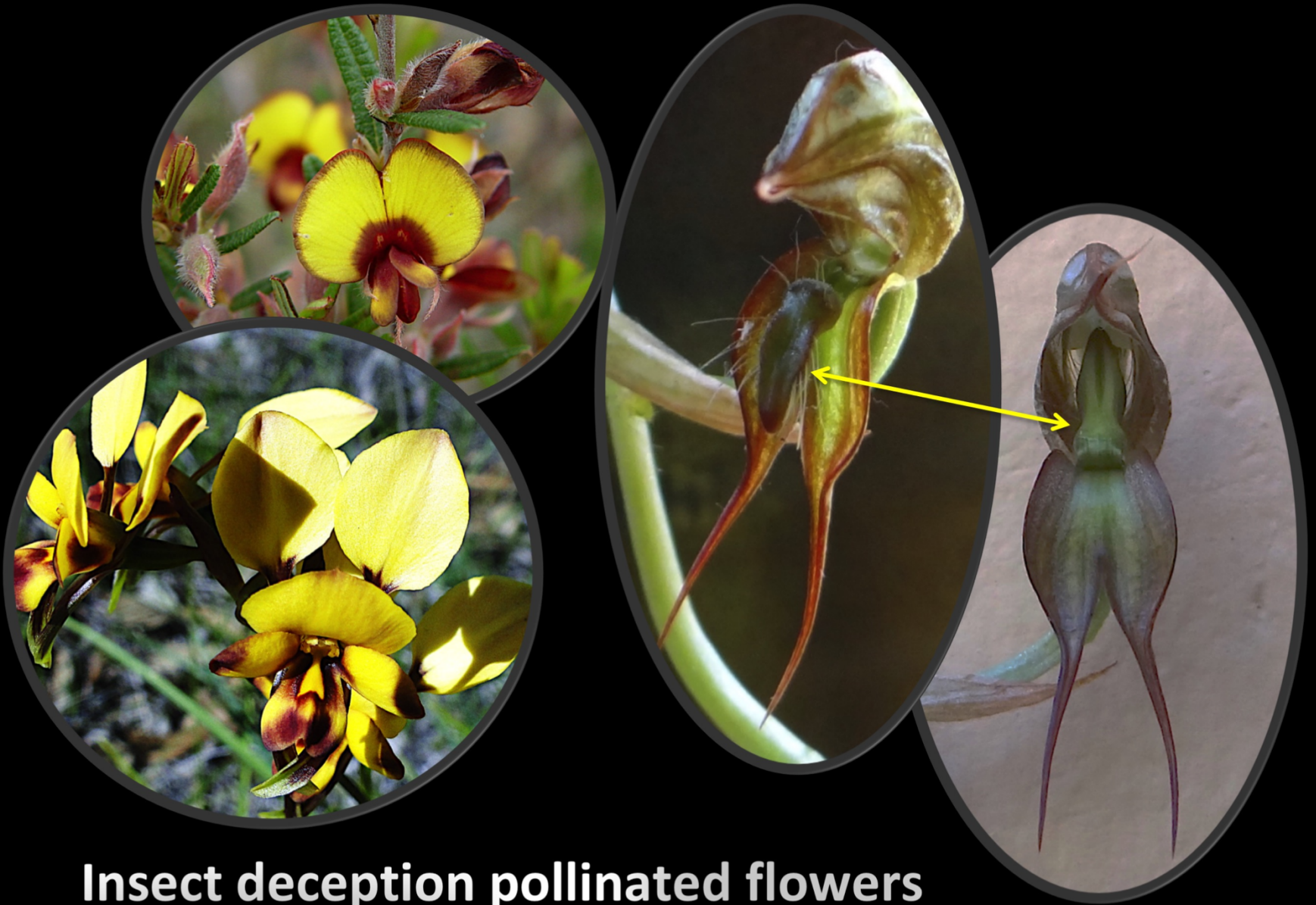
Dicot flowers



○ stamens groups

○ stamens

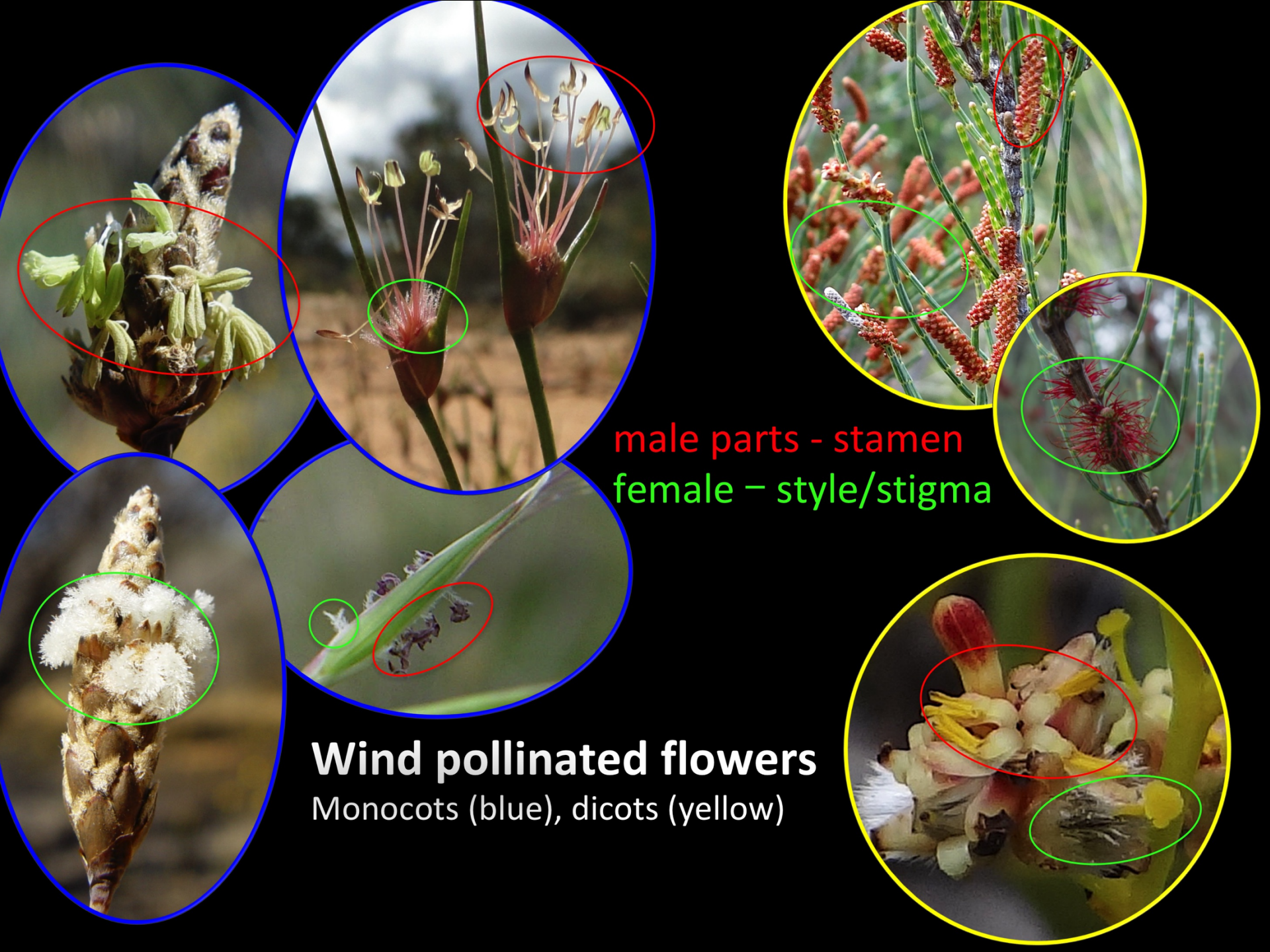
○ style/sigma



Insect deception pollinated flowers

LHS *Diuris* below, pea above

RHS *Pterostylis* trap open/trap closed



male parts - stamen
female - style/stigma

Wind pollinated flowers
Monocots (blue), dicots (yellow)