

EREMOPHILA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 15 AUGUST 1979

The ultimate aim of any Study Group is a published report. Some Study Groups have already done this, but many such as ours feel there is such a lot more to be found out before committing ourselves. Nevertheless, I have a feeling we should put something into print, based on our findings so far. We have been in existence since August 1972, a total of seven years, and in that time, due no doubt in part to our activities, many Eremophila species have become available commercially and through SGAP meetings and shows. People who purchase or otherwise obtain these plants should have available to them the knowledge we have already obtained. Your thoughts and comments, as to what should be included in a report, are invited. We have the results of the two questionnaires which have provided information on where they are growing and in what conditions. There is also my flowering period chart, and we can include some information on propagation. So if anyone has any data they think pertinent, please forward it.

Reports of our seasonal troubles are coming in again. It is an unfortunate fact that some species do not like cold wet weather. Furry-leaved plants are particularly susceptible, probably due to the water holding capacity of the leaves. Some seem to become acclimatized after a few years, or perhaps, if you can keep the plant alive, it grows tall enough to be exposed to the drying action of the wind. E. elderi is a real problem, as, despite many plants being distributed, very few are left. There could be a fungal problem (see David Lawry's article). We may have to give special attention to some plants by selecting a certain aspect like many people do with orchids, ferns, etc.

G.N.

NAME CHANGES

Bob Chinnock

There is nothing more frustrating than finding out that a plant name you have known for years has been replaced by a new unfamiliar one. The reasons for such changes are usually found in scientific journals, which are not readily available to the layman. When names are changed there is usually a very good reason, and to change a name the botanist is guided by an international code. This Code, "The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature" has strict guidelines and rules, which must be followed by all botanists (world-wide), and it is the application of these rules which results in changes.

Although I have been fortunate that few changes are required at the species level in Eremophila, I have recently come across two instances where names must be altered.

One of the rules of nomenclature states that when a plant is described for the first time, that name has priority over any other names given to that species at a later date. If two separately described species are later found to be the same, then the older name of that species must be used.

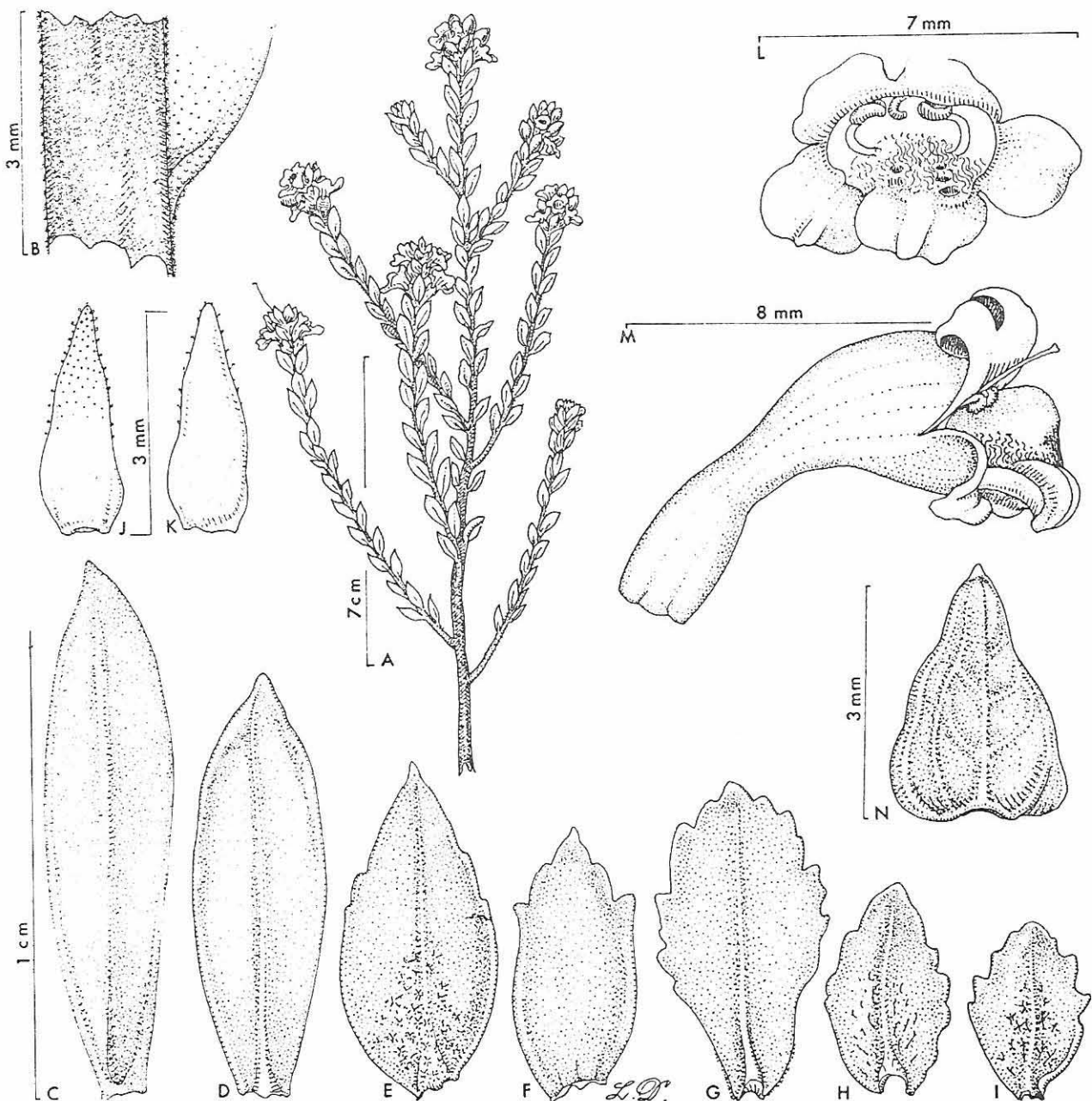
Eremophila calycina S. Moore was described in 1902 and said to be similar to E. duttonii. In 1914 J.M. Black described a new species from northern South Australia called E. neglecta, but he later decided that this was the same as E. calycina and adopted this earlier name for the species.

Until recently, I had not seen the specimen (held at the British Museum) upon which Spencer Moore based his species E. calycina. However, in his original description he did state that the sepals were acuminate and that the specimen had been collected by "Mrs. Capt. Grey" near the head of Spencer's Gulf. As the sepals of the plant we know of as E. calycina are obtuse and the species is only known from the far north of S.A., I was suspicious as to whether the true E. calycina was, in fact, the plant we know.

When the specimen of *E. calycina* arrived from the British Museum my suspicions were confirmed. It was a form of *E. duttonii*, a much earlier described species. Thus *E. calycina* must be reduced to the synonymy of *E. duttonii*, and the species which we have called *E. calycina* is now *E. neglecta*, as this name is available.

The second example is *Eremophila woollsiana*. Although this is the first *Eremophila* name to be applied to this species, it turns out that it was in fact described much earlier by Sonder as *Halgania lehmanniana* (1848). As a result it is necessary to use this name, so a new combination *Eremophila lehmanniana* will have to be made.

It is the species name and not the generic name which is important and unless that species name is already in use for another species in a particular genus, it must be used. If, for example, there was already an *Eremophila lehmanniana*, which had been described earlier than the *Halgania lehmanniana*, then we could not use this species name as it is already being used. In this case the name *E. woollsiana* would be retained.



Eremophila lehmanniana

A, habit; B, enlargement of branch; C-I, leaf variants; J-K, inside and outside of sepal; L-M, front and side view of corolla; N, front view of fruit.