

## PROSTANTHERA STUDY GROUP

## NEWSLETTER NO. 7

## PATRON

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## LEADER

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An activity several members and myself find interesting is collecting Prostanthera species growing in the wild. Information on actual locations can be obtained from people knowing of their existence. Some books give details when describing plants, it is usually necessary to allow plenty of time to do the actual searching. Existing Herbarium collections give reasonably accurate information for finding plants including unnamed ones.

Dr. Barry Conn, Botanist at the National Botanic Herbarium (Victoria) is involved in producing a complete revision of Prostanthera. I would like members to read again the article in Newsletter No.3 by Barry and consider collecting Herbarium material which could help in this revisional work. As this is important, I have re-written some of the article mentioned, also brief notes on how to prepare plant specimens.

Material can be sent either direct to

Dr. B.J. Conn,  
Botanist,  
National Herbarium,  
Birdwood Ave.,  
South Yarra Vic. 3141

or given to me for forwarding to Barry.

"Record everything that may not or cannot be adequately preserved on the Herbarium material"

1. Habitat : give any information pertaining to the structure or composition of the plant community from which the sample was collected, the common species should be listed. If there are several levels in the community, the the most common occurring from each should be listed.

A brief description of the soil and rock type (if known) should be given.

A statement on the frequency (i.e. abundant, sparse) is also useful, since it indicates how important the plant species is in the community.

2. Habit : Type and degree of branching (whether open spreading plant or dense compact shrub) also a description of plant size, including height etc.

The following points CAN be included with the specimen or they may be preserved along with most of the structure of the plant.

Description of the wood and bark should be included for trees and the larger woody shrubs, also a wood and bark sample should be collected.

Since the colour patterns are quite complicated in Prostanthera, more detailed information concerning colour is preferable to merely stating whether the specimen has: for example, blue or red flowers. I would like to know:

- (a) the colour of the calyx (when in fruit, as well as in flower if both are present);
- (b) the colour of the outer surface of the corolla;
- (c) the colour of the inner surface and whether there are any markings present (such as dots and other pollination guides);
- (d) the colour of the staminal filaments and the anthers (the anthers often have some colouration laterally);

To I will let you know my new address in a few weeks.

Brian T.











