



# *Ptilotus Study Group*

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Hello,

I have included below a list of useful reference books, many contain excellent photos or line drawings of different Ptilotus species.

I am presently starting to collect photos, slides and drawings of any of the species, so any contributions would be most welcome.

(Will pay for the copying and postage if required)

There is also an excellent photo of Ptilotus exaltatus (Pink Mulla Mulla) on the Internet site created by Brian Walters (N.S.W. S.G.A.P.) The address is: <http://farrer.riv.csu.edu.au/ASGAP/>

## Reference Books

- \* Plant Identification in the Arid Zone - Dept. Primary Industry Qld, Landcare, Jenny Milson. (1996)
- \* Flora of New South Wales - Gwen Harden, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Volume 1.
- \* Flowers & Plants of Western Australia - Rica Erickson, A.s. George, N.G. Marchant, M.K. Morcombe. (1991)
- \* Flora of Central Australia
- \* Concise Australian Flora

## Propagation News

Cuttings were taken from 2 species in June and placed under identical conditions in an igloo. Both had mist and bottom heat of 27 - 30°C.

*P. macrocephalus* - 30 cuttings of very good fresh wood ( stems just firm enough to stand upright) treated with Clonex Purple rooting gel. 100% strike rate was achieved within 2 weeks, with a good vigorous root system. (Most seedlings have a fragile root system)

*P. exaltatus* - 16 cuttings of semi - hardwood in average condition (accidentally broken off flowering plant in the ground)

8 were treated with Clonex Red

8 were treated with Clonex Purple

These cuttings were very slow to strike and had very weak roots. Cuttings were taken on 4th July, and tubed on the 20th September.

Results:

Clonex Red - 3 of 8

Clonex Purple - 2 of 8

\* Fresh vigorous growing wood appears essential for good success - after plants form flowers very little suitable wood can be found.

## Growing On

*Ptilotus*' main aim in life appears to be to grow and flower as fast and furious as possible! This is probably due to the fact that they originate from dry semi-arid/arid regions, and need to reproduce quickly after rain to survive. Rain seems to produce a burst of flowering that normal watering doesn't.

I experienced some quite astounding growth rates in *P. exaltatus* & *P. macrocephalus*, even when the potting mix had no added fertiliser.