

ANPSA

Correa Study Group

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Hello everyone, this is now my second newsletter and I continue to find out more and more about the Correa genera.

In South Australia until recently we have been through a very testing time with virtually no rainfall for eight months! As I propagate quite a few Correa species and plant many of them into our small suburban block I was aware of being careful or the requirement not to over water them.

Little did I know at the time that we were heading into a period of dryness for eight months!!

Even Correas that I thought were tough and well established such as 'Dusky Bells' started to succumb to the total lack of moisture in the soil profile.

In this newsletter two local rare species are featured *C. calycina* and *C. eburnea* with quite in depth descriptions.

Contributions from members in the way of photos or articles are welcome at any time of the year and can be sent to either my email or postal address.

Russell Dahms

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***Correa calycina* J. M. Black**



Correa calycina

There are two recognised varieties:

C. calycina var. *calycina* with moderately hairy leaves

C. calycina var. *halmaturorum* with densely hairy leaves

The word *calycina* means that it has a conspicuous calyx. The most popularly grown form is *C. calycina* var. *calycina* known as the Hindmarsh Correa because the type specimen was collected at the Upper Waterfall, Hindmarsh Valley South Australia in 1924 by J B Cleland. It also occurs in the Mt Lofty Range and at Boundy Creek, South Australia. It is restricted to only a few small, clumped populations in isolated localities and is listed as vulnerable.

Fortunately it's an easy Correa to grow in gardens. In the wild it grows on steep hillsides as an understorey shrub and is very drought hardy. The only specimen I saw in the wild was growing on a very steep slope.

It has a compact dense habit growing up to 2.5 m high and 2 m wide in ideal conditions but mostly grows no higher than 1 m with an equivalent spread.

The soft slightly hairy flat leaves are oblong to elliptic in shape, up to 40 mm x 15 mm in size, paler green and velvety below, on a hairy stem and leaf stalk.

The distinctive calyx is green, ribbed, square in cross-section and up to 15 mm high with 4 long pointed lobes which wrap over the upper part of the floral tube. The lime green narrow tubular flowers, which are up to 30 mm x 7 mm in size, are pale green fading to a darker green towards the petal tips, turning mauve with age. They are solitary at the ends of small hairy branchlets. Anthers are exserted.

I have found this variety to be very frost and drought hardy and reliable in the garden. It grows best in well-drained sites but is adaptable to a wide variety of soils.

Plants which are stressed can be attacked by scale and develop sooty mould. They will revive after spraying with Pest Oil. The black mould can be removed with a 5% bleach solution, sprayed on and then hosed off.

This species is fairly maintenance free and usually does not require pruning. It flowers from Autumn to Spring with spasmodic flowering throughout the year. I think it would make an excellent low hedge.

C. calycina is not noted for hybridising but there are a couple of varieties which have been introduced into cultivation



Photo: Jan Simpson

Correa 'Lime Splice'

(0.4 m x 0.6 m) A seedling which came up in the pot of a *C. decumbens* hybrid in Jan Simpson's garden in Canberra after the 2003 bushfires.

It has greyish green narrow leaves, (20 mm x 8 mm) with a concentration of rust coloured hairs on the prominent mid vein.

The very narrow bell flowers, 29 mm x 7 mm in size, are cream with lime green tips, which are slightly recurved. There is a white band between the cream and green sections and the floral tube is constricted above the tip. Anthers are strongly exerted.

It has the same cultivation requirements as *C. calycina* var *calycina*.



Correa 'Pink Panther' (*C. calycina* x *C. decumbens*)

0.6 m x 1 m Flowers: Summer – Autumn

Of unknown origin but named by Clive Larkman. It is a low growing dense spreading shrub with dark green, shiny, lanceolate leaves, 35 mm x 10 mm in size, rough to the touch on top and pale green and velvety underneath and having well indented veins.

It has narrow deep pink tubular flowers growing up to 30 mm x 8 mm with a 5 mm band of green at the constricted tips. Anthers are strongly exerted. The calyx is square shaped with four triangular lobes, which are slightly elongated at the points.

This is one of my best Correas. It is very frost and drought hardy and makes a wonderful ground cover with little or no maintenance. It is adaptable to a variety of soil types but does best in well-drained sandy soil in full sun to part shade. Suits rockeries, tubs, foreground planting in the garden. The birds love it.



Correa 'Vanilla Ice' (*C. alba* var. *alba* x *C. calycina*)

0.8 m x 2 m Flowers Summer - Winter

This is one of the late Tim Boehm's garden seedlings and named by Maria Hitchcock.

It's an unusual cultivar and the foliage is very distinctive. Angus Stewart was quite taken with it when he visited my garden last year.

It is a very dense low-growing spreading shrub with strongly veined, apple green heart-shaped leaves, 38 mm x 20 mm in size, shiny and slightly scaly on top, paler green and velvety underneath.

The frosty white bells

with ribbed petals and recurved tips, have a calyx which is strongly lobed.

I find this plant very frost and drought hardy and it prefers well drained soils in full sun to part shade. It thrives on neglect, requiring very little attention. Suits foreground planting in the garden or as a filler between other larger shrubs.

It should do well in tubs and rockeries and may suit amenity plantings such as car park gardens.



Correa calycina var. *halmaturorum*.

Found only on the De Mole River in an inaccessible part of Kangaroo Island where it was first collected by G. Jackson in 1985.

I had this plant growing in a dry neglected part of my garden for years without knowing what it was.

Although it grows naturally along the river bank in deep damp soil overlying shale in *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* forest or in basalt-schist-sand-stone rock crevices, I find it doesn't like being too wet as the dense hairs promote rotting.

It is a spreading shrub growing to 1.2 m x 2.5 m with strongly woolly branchlets covered in rust-coloured hairs. Leaves are oblong to elliptic, slightly recurved at the margins, 45 mm x 12 mm in size, rough to the touch above, with a definite indentation for veins.

The leaves are densely hairy below with rust coloured hairs concentrated on the mid vein and margins.

The green tubular flowers are 27 mm x 7mm in size and are almost sessile on the branchlets. Petal tips are barely recurved and there is a light scattering of tan hairs on the tips. The square calyx is quite large, up to 11mm high with 4 pointed lobes which protrude in a fold on the edges. Anthers are strongly exerted.

It flowers in Winter and the birds love it.

I found it to be frost and very drought hardy and is best left undisturbed as it does not respond well to pruning. It is not well known in cultivation and there are no known hybrids. This is a form that we should all be growing to ensure its survival.

***C. calycina* - Corrine Hempel**

Correa calycina is a hardy plant once established. We have it growing in a small arboretum established on the property of a local retirement village.



The plants are about 15-20 years old and are growing near the base of local mallee trees, with no supplementary water. One plant gets only morning sun, while the other is exposed all day.

The soil is dry, non wetting alkaline sand with 334 mm rainfall per year. This correa needs to be trimmed regularly to avoid straggly growth. The green flowers glow on dull, overcast days.

Correa eburnea Paul G. Wilson



Correa eburnea is another very rare Correa which occurs in the Deep Creek Conservation Park in South Australia and a few other isolated communities nearby.

It grows naturally along the banks and sides of creeks, near waterfalls and on steep slopes of rocky gorges in black damp loams near creeks to skeletal soils in the gorges. It is usually associated with a watercourse and where it occurs on coastal cliff tops, it is near the mouth of a major creek. It tends to be found in Eucalypt woodlands dominated by an understorey of *Acacia paradoxa*, *A. retinodes* or *Allocasuarina verticillata*.



This description of the habitat can be misleading because Don and I stumbled across it by accident in the Deep Creek CP growing on the steep side of a dry hillside.

It is a large spreading shrub growing up to 4 m in height in ideal conditions. The mid green papery ovate leaves are up to 50 mm long, smooth, glossy and indented on top and covered in fine cream coloured hairs underneath.

Flowers, up to 25 mm long, are held between a pair of unusual apple green round to heart-shaped leafy bracts. The narrow tubular flowers are pale green fading to cream at the barely recurved tips which are dotted with tan coloured stellate hairs. Anthers are exserted. The calyx is cup-shaped, up to 5 mm high, with a wavy margin.

Very few people are growing this species which is a shame because it is quite hardy. Like most Correas it prefers a well-drained site in half sun and as far as I can see it thrives on neglect. Suited to the larger garden, this plant is one for the collector as the green flowers do not make much of a show but can be grown as a foliage contrast plant in the garden.

Marian Beek's specimen struggled in her heavily shaded garden and it appears to prefer only very light shade. There are no known hybrids.

Hints on propagating Correas – one person's experience

I 'prefer' to use Debco Professional Propagation Mix and have done so for 30 years as I find it not too open like sand / peat mix can be, but you need to be sure not to over water when using it.

I use 50mm tubes for singles or a small 3" squat type pot, can't remember the design, but I think they're from Garden City Plastics, which I place between 5 – 15 cuttings in each.

When struck, I pot them into 70mm square tubes, also from Garden City Plastics (seconds), into a mix of 50 / 50% Debco Native Mix / Nursery Mix.

Now what I do at this stage is something that some growers would probably scoff at, but I add Blood and Bone, plus some IBDU to the mix at the tube stage.

IBDU is a 31% Nitrogen fertiliser (31N-0P-0K), which is actually slow release, as per Blood and Bone.

I wouldn't recommend anyone try the IBDU without some previous experience with it, or risk losing their plants.

I must say that I find March (before flowering) a great time to take *Correa* cuttings, then again in October, but I've usually got cuttings down most of the year.

Tasmanian *Correa* - Phil Hempel

This *Correa* was found near Mole Creek, west of Launceston in Tasmania. It was thought to be a form or hybrid of *C. backhouseana*.

A plant was dropped off at my place as part of a few trays to look after for a while and gave me a chance to study it a bit more.

I believe it is similar to *C. lawrenceana* var *grampiana*. The difference being the flower is not as long as var *grampiana* but otherwise it looks the same.

The leaves vary in size from 35-40 long x 15-20 wide, dark green, semi glossy, velvety underneath. Stem 5mm mostly recurved.



The calyx is only 4mm long, wavy with 4 small points, rust coloured stellate hairs. Flower 15mm long, light yellow graduating to fawn on the end, stamens well exerted.

If it is a form of *C. lawrenceana* var *grampiana* it is interesting.

Some weeks back I was sent a photo of an unusual native plant from the Tasmanian bush and it was identified as *Pimelea pagophyila*, a rare endangered, endemic plant from the Grampians.

Does Tasmania have a disjunct population of Grampians plants? Or is this something else?

Hybrid *Correas* – Phil Hempel

A lot of native plant enthusiasts suggest that hybrid *Correas* are not worth growing and only the best forms should be kept.

However I have collected a few, that I believe to be hybrids, from garden visits and from the bush on the edge of suburbs and have found that they may not be the best but their hybrid vigor and ability to withstand the climate here makes them a worthy addition to the garden. Suitable ones can also make good rootstock for grafting many of the Rutaceae species.



Several of these hybrids are now growing in wet parts of my garden where all other species, other than *C. glabra*, have died from the conditions.

They develop into well formed bushes and the flowers are a little different.

On our District Groups Facebook page one photo of a *Correa* hybrid had 150+ views, on the high end of normal activities suggesting it had considerable interest.



On the subject of Facebook, there are sites for specialized native plants such as "Grevillea Growers". "Eremophila Growers" and "Eucalyptus Trees", all these sites get comments and regular hits from countries other than Australia, check them out, should we have a "Correa Growers" Facebook site?

The photo with the three flowers appears to be a *C. glabra* hybrid collected from a reserve in Eltham, the photo of the horizontal flower was collected from a garden in South West Victoria.

Can South Australian Correas be grown in the Melton Botanic Garden? - David Pye

We are shortly to commence construction of the West Australian / South Australian (WASA) garden in the Melton Botanic Garden (fmbg.org.au).

The total area of the WASA garden is 2-3 hectares and about one quarter of this is expected to include South Australian plants.



We wish to establish a number for representative collections in the garden, and are considering the inclusion of *Correa*.

South Australia has the largest number of *Correa* species of any state. Species found there include *C. reflexa*, *C. pulchella*, *C. aemula*, *C. glabra*, *C. eburnea*, *C. calycina*, *C. alba*, *C. backhousiana*, *C. decumbens*, with some of these species endemic to the State.

The climate is dry, with a long term average rainfall of 450-500mm but often around 300mm. Humidity is low and evaporation is high, and not suited to moisture loving species.

We intend to commence planting in autumn 2015, ie in two years, but hope to shortly commence trials of *C. pulchella*.

We expect that *C. reflexa ssp scabridula* would grow there but would be unsuitable due to maintenance difficulties (weed competition).

Plants may need to tolerate full sun, it being very difficult to establish plants near established trees. The conditions are relatively harsh, quite different from those at Bullengarook where Barb and I live.



These include Isabell, Adorabell, Annabell, Jezabell, Canberra Bells, Peter Sutton and Catie Bec.

Canberra Bells was selected as the floral symbol for Canberra's Centenary celebrations this year.



This is the newly released Correa Annabel

Advice and comment from members is requested, and I expect that South Australian members in particular have relevant experience.

Peter cross pollinates with complex crosses and it's astonishing to see the amazing number of variations in leaf and flower shapes and colours.

The nursery trade is now looking for plants with that wow factor – great colour, compact shapes, low enough in the pot to fit neatly on trolleys.

New Bywong Selections

By Maria Hitchcock

Peter has written up his methods in my book 'Correas – Australian plants for Waterwise Gardens' (Rosenberg 2010).

Recently I had the good fortune to travel to Canberra to give a talk on growing Waratahs and Flannel Flowers.

As my daughter lives in Canberra I always try to spend a week with her at the same time.

This usually gives me time to hit the nurseries and catch up with Peter and Jennifer Ollerenshaw who are doing the most exciting work with Correa breeding, releasing their selections under the Bywong label.

They are currently selling a range of plants under their trademarked Winter Bells label.

Here are a few of his selections which may be released onto the market in the next few years.

Peter's philosophy is only to release a few each year and he licenses large growers to mass produce and distribute them so that they go into the major chains and nurseries, therefore reaching a wider public.

Peter numbers his new varieties and only names them before applying for PBR registration.



249a is a small compact low growing (15cm x 75cm) highly floriferous form which fits these requirements. It is a self pollinated variety derived from 51a



151b (C. Federation Belle and C. reflexa Grampians)



51a is a cross between C. Federation Belle and C. reflexa Grampians. It will probably only be used for breeding rather than being released.



71b (C. pulchella pink x C. reflexa Seal Rocks)



283a is another vibrant multi flowered form which would really pep up any garden. It is a cross between 51b and 71b. Peter has used 51b in several of his crossings.



285 is an interesting coral colour and is a cross between 51b and 45a.



45a (*C. reflexa* Grampians x *C. pulchella*)



91a is a cross between *C. Candy Pink* and *C. baeuerlennii*



264a is another vibrant variety produced by crossing 85f with a form of *C. reflexa* var *speciosa*.



242a is a small spreading multi flowering variety 85f ('*Federation Bells*' x '*Mannii*') - this is the same cross that resulted in *C. 'Canberra Bells'*



85f '*Federation Bells*' x '*Mannii*' - this is the same cross that resulted in *C. 'Canberra Bells'*



267c multiple cross between C59a (*C. 'Candy Pink*' x *C. reflexa 'Grampians'*) and C163a (*C. Federation Belle* x *C. pulchella* red)



*59a is a cross between C. Candy Pink x
C. reflexa Grampians*

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Thank you to everyone who sent me cuttings of *Correas* missing from the living collection. I still need cuttings of the following. Please email me on maria.hitchcock@gmail.com if you can help.

C. aemula (KI forms or Grampians)
C. aemula x Mt Zero
C. alba x Benara Bell
C. alba x Ice Pink (Mallee Pastel)
C. alba x Pink Profusion
C. alba x Royal Flush
C. alba var *pannosa* Flat White
C. alba var *pannosa* White Delight
C. backhouseana 'Beek's Beauty'

C. backhouseana 'Betty Fawcett'
C. backhouseana 'Bill Cane'
C. backhouseana 'Dainty Pink'
C. backhouseana 'Gill's Gem'
C. backhouseana 'Little Lantern'
C. backhouseana 'Pink Perfection'
C. backhouseana 'Poorinda Grace'
C. backhouseana 'Poorinda Mary'
C. glabra 'Ivory Lantern'
C. glabra 'Melville Caves'
C. glabra 'Jewels'
C. lawrenceana 'Christmas in July'

C. pulchella Annie's Delight (*C. minor*, *C. Sir Hans Heysen*)
C. pulchella 'Baby Doll'
C. pulchella 'Flinders Ranges'
C. pulchella Waitpinga
C. reflexa Green Giant
C. reflexa Icicle
C. reflexa Lemon n Lime
C. reflexa Mt Richmond red
C. reflexa Mt Richmond white
C. reflexa Petal Point red
C. reflexa Peewee Pete
C. reflexa Clearview Giant (Gippsland Giant)

C. reflexa Yeerung

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17 June 2013

ANPSA Correa Study Group

Reference: ACRA application for registration of Correa 'Dancing Lipsticks'

To: Correa Study Group Leader, Cherree Densley

Dear Cherree

In the application by the Correa Study Group of the Australian Native Plant Society (Australia) to register the cultivar name *Correa* 'Dancing Lipsticks', which was received in 1999, it is clearly stated that the name *C. 'Redex'* was already in use for this entity.

Principle 3 of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (8th edition, October 2009) states: "The naming of taxa governed by this Code is based upon priority of publication. Each cultivar of Group with a particular circumscription....may bear only one accepted name".

Given the publication of the name *Correa* 'Redex' in the Australian Plants Journal (Payne, W.H. (1997), New Cultivars, *Australian Plants* 19(153): 202), the ACRA Committee has therefore approved its registration rather than *C. 'Dancing Lipsticks'*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Carmen', is written over the typed name.

Paul Carmen
ACRA Registrar