

ANPSA Correa Study Group

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Correa "Mystery" from Michael O'Sullivan

Web: <http://anpsa.org.au/correaSG/>

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LEADERS' COMMENTS

Hello all you 'Correa Lovers,'

Well folks, it is time to put pen to paper. Finally, after several months of lockdown, life is about to enter into the new normal, whatever that means.

After 10 years here we are at a stage where the garden is full and maturing. There are very minimal grassed areas left, so one of the more constant tasks is to prune to keep the pathways negotiable and some of the more vigorous plants in some sort of check. There is an ongoing loss of individual plants, which is to be expected, including correas. The lost correas are to be replaced so as to retain our wide ranging collection. At the same time we wish to add further different correa forms, not always an easy undertaking. It is the larger growing correa species that are the most difficult to insert, especially as we aim for the 2 copies of each variation. We can certainly appreciate that the dimensions of the modern suburban housing allotments would impose very difficult constraints in planting any correas calycina, glabra, lawrenciana or eburnea.

More recently we have been fortunate to receive plants or cutting material of a number of larger correa. Thanks to Maria Hitchcock we now have 3 copies of *Correa calycina* now neatly crammed in along the rear side fence and taking off nicely. Ideally they should be more spaced out, but we can only do what we are able. We were fortunate to receive cuttings of *Correa calycina* v *halmaturorum* and now have 3 of these also happily growing after recently being planted out. In the meantime, a *Correa lawrenciana* v *genoaensis* is looking very happy, while a second of these plants did not make it, requiring another propagation job to be done very soon.

On the first day of summer there is very little flowering wise across our collection of over 200 correa plants. The red flowering lawrencianas are in moderate flowering mode as are the prostrate Kangaroo Island decumbens. and reflexa Graham. Glabra v *turnbullii* has a light scattering of bells while lawrenciana Christmas in July is now budding up. As is usual, we have at least some correas in flower at all times of the year, including summer.

Reflecting back, we were blessed with a gentle, somewhat drier winter then with a moderate, moist spring, both of which helped make the lockdown that much easier to endure.

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Leaders' Comments cont.

The virus lockdown was not at all welcome, but still some most positive outcomes have been achieved during it all the same. We trust that you folk are likewise now able to face the new normal world ahead in a positive manner, your correas being a floral tool as an aid. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you wonderful gardening friends.

Regards,

Dot & Bob



Correas in Central Victoria – Possible Correa Crawl

by David and Barb Pye

The western part of Central Victoria is being examined as a venue for a Correa crawl

Natural environment

We have been looking for Correas at sites where car convoys can stop.

To date, our efforts have uncovered

Green forms of *Correa reflexa* abundant in the Bullengarook area at 2 sites suitable for groups of people
Small numbers of a red form of *Correa reflexa* at various sites in the Brisbane ranges and a yellow form at another site.

At a suitable lunch stop at Steiglitz, we found 2 plants of red *Correa reflexa* and a variety of other plants including:

- Spyridiums
- Hakeas
- *Grevillea chrysophea*
- Various Acacia sp including *A. myrtifolia* and *A. pycnantha*
- *Eucalyptus tricarpa*
- Xanthorrhoeas
Banksia marginata

On a trip to Enfield we found only 1 specimen of red Correa and this was on a hillside above a narrow winding road with no possibility of stopping. Because some excellent forms of *Correa reflexa* have been found in this area in the past, we need to do more searching there.

Correa glabra is found in the area, but we have been able to find a suitable site for a group visit. However, local forms have been planted in the two gardens described below.

Garden visits

Our garden at Bullengarook has a variety of correas of several species and many self-sown plants, and could be a good place to meet before heading off to look at Bullengarook Correas.

The Melton Botanic Garden has plants of *Correa pulchella*, *Correa glabra* (local forms), *Correa reflexa*, and *Correa backhouseana* var. *coriacea*. With a large variety of dryland Eucalypts (>100 species) and many Western Australian and South Australian plants, several hours could be spent there.

Further research

Further work is required to identify suitable areas to visit. Members who can point us towards people with local knowledge are asked to get in touch (0417 289 369 or dabpye@gmail.com).

At this time, the uncertainty regarding Covid-19 restrictions makes a Correa Crawl next year unlikely, but does give us time for further research.



Correa reflexa - Bullengarook – Firth Road

Correas in Central Victoria – Possible Correa Crawl (cont)
by David and Barb Pye



Correa reflexa - Brisbane Ranges – Clarkes Road



Correa reflexa - Brisbane Ranges – Thompsons Road

A Ramble in our Correas Sue Guymer

My interest in Australian native plants and gardening started in the 1980s. When Bill and I built our house in Donvale, an eastern Melbourne suburb, one of the first garden beds we set up was dubbed the “Correa Bed”.

How could you not love correas? The bell-shaped flowers are just lovely, and come in a great range of colours. There is also a great range of foliage shapes and colours – foliage is so important in any plant as that is what we see in our gardens for most of the year. Correas also cover a range of sizes and habits. They seem to appeal even to those people who say that they “don’t like native plants”.

One of the first APS Victoria (then SGAP Victoria) quarterly meetings we attended was hosted by Warrnambool group, and it included a visit to a local nursery which had propagated a large number of different correa species and cultivars. One I particularly remember was *Correa* ‘Benara Bell’ which had lovely bronze foliage and cream and peach bells; unfortunately it didn’t last long in our heavy clay.

The correas species we have include: *Correa backhouseana* var *coriacea*, *C. baeuerlenii*, *C. calycina* var *halmaturina*, *C. decumbens*, *C. glabra*, *C. pulchella* and *C. reflexa*. The most reliable for us are *C. glabra*, *C. pulchella* and *C. reflexa*. Ironically, the coastal forms of *C. reflexa* are least happy in our clay, but most forms of the coastal species *C. pulchella* are happy.

The search continues for different correas. We have found that Goldfields Revegetation Nursery (south of Bendigo in central Victoria) has a great and expanding range. We recently bought a *Correa pulchella* with very small, fine leaves with the cultivar name ‘Dainty White’. The plant looks very similar to a coral-flowered cultivar which we have grown for years, called ‘Pixie Bells’.

Some recent correas pictures from our garden are shown below.



Correa reflexa “Jewel”

A Ramble in our Correas (cont)
Sue Guymer



Correa pulchella

A Ramble in our Correas (cont)
Sue Guymer



Correa calycina var *halmatuorum*

Some of our endangered *Correas* Maria Hitchcock OAM

Many years ago when I was starting my *Correa* collection I had a variety growing in the garden which was unnamed. I had brought it back from a visit to Marian Beek at Naracoorte but had lost the label. It was a most unusual plant with brown hairy stems, green flowers and an untidy habit. I had it in a fairly dry section of the garden and as we were living on limited tank water it had to rely on rainfall. It thrived despite neglect for some years until it finally bit the dust. It was not until several years later that I realised what it was:

Correa calycina var *halmaturorum* Wilson De Mole River *Correa*

The name: *halmaturorum* means kangaroo – it occurs in a restricted area on the De Mole River on Kangaroo Island.

The type specimen was collected by G. Jackson in 1985. It was classified as *C. calycina* until Paul Wilson split it from the Hindmarsh *Correa* in his revision published in *Nuytsia* 12:92 (1998). Finding it is not easy. It is endemic to the banks of the De Mole River near the river mouth and was collected 1 km inland along the bank on the eastern boundary of Cape Torrens Conservation Park, where two populations extending to 400 metres in length occur. There is another population of 6 plants 500 m inland from the beach. It is listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

This rare and interesting variety grows along the river bank in deep damp soil overlying shale in *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* forest or in basalt-schist-sand-stone rock crevices. The river is fresh water at this point. The location is difficult to get to without an all terrain vehicle and is quite isolated, requiring permission from an adjoining property holder and a long difficult and dangerous walk to get to the site.

It is a spreading open 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 providing copious amounts of nectar for honeyeaters.

The species is frost hardy and very drought hardy. Although its habitat is near streams, it prefers well-drained soils with a minimum of watering. It does not respond well to pruning and is not well known in cultivation. The species grows easily from cuttings although the hairy branches may retain too much water under a misting system and rot. Cuttings may need to be sprayed against damping off. Plants in pots should be kept in a low humid environment.



Correa calycina var. *halmaturorum*

Some of our endangered *Correas* (cont) Maria Hitchcock OAM

Correa calycina var *calycina* J M Black Hindmarsh Correa

Unlike the De Mole R. Correa, its close relative does not have the dense brown hairs that characterise that species. While the leaves are hairy underneath, they are more velvety to the touch. The name *calycina* refers to the conspicuous calyx. Although it is listed as endangered, this species is widely grown in gardens where it is quite reliable and long lived and its survival is assured. It is called the Hindmarsh Correa because it is restricted to a small area near Hindmarsh Falls in SA. It occurs only in a few small, clumped populations in isolated localities on the southern Fleurieu Peninsula of South Australia. The type specimen was collected at the Upper Waterfall, Hindmarsh Valley South Australia in 1924 by J B Cleland. It was also collected in the Mt Lofty Range and at Boundy Ck, South Australia.

The current population is estimated to be about 5000 plants, with less than 1500 located through surveys. Davies (1992) and Briggs & Leigh (1996) reported on surviving populations within Myponga Conservation Park, the Hindmarsh Falls Council Reserve, Carrickalinga Creek, South Australia Water land on the Hindmarsh Tiers Reserve, as well as one on private land.



Correa calycina var. *calycina*

Some of our endangered *Correas* (cont)

Maria Hitchcock OAM

Correa calycina var. *calycina* grows naturally on or near banks of streams on dark reddish-brown to brown loams and fine sandy clay loams in the upper watershed and ranges of the Hindmarsh and Inman River. It also occurs on steep slopes and embankments in these areas growing as an understorey shrub in Eucalypt woodland often with *Dodonaea* as a dominant shrub.

It is a dense shrub that can grow 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. This species has oblong to elliptic, flat leaves, up to 40 mm x 15 mm in size, sparsely hairy or papery above, 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.

This species is frost hardy and very drought hardy. It is a reliable garden plant best grown in well-drained sites but is adaptable to a wide variety of soils. This species normally has a compact habit with dense foliage and does not require pruning except to shape. It flowers from Autumn to Spring with spasmodic flowering throughout the year.

Correa calycina var. *calycina* is easy to strike from tip cuttings taken at any time throughout the year but preferably in late Spring or early Autumn.

Some garden hybrids have been introduced into cultivation such as: *Correa* 'Vanilla Ice' (*C. alba* x *C. calycina*).
Correa 'Pink Panther' (*C. calycina* x *C. decumbens*)



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

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



Correa glabra var. turnbullii

By Dot O'Neill

We have a magnificent *Correa glabra* var. *turnbullii* flourishing in our garden. The plant is currently 3.5 metres wide and 2 metres tall. *Correa glabra* var. *turnbullii* has quite a history as you can read here.

There was some early confusion with the naming of C. glabra var. turnbullii. An early specimen was collected in stony scrubland in South Australia and named C schlehtendalii Behr, published in Linnaea in 1847 and named after a German botanist. However, the type specimen is that collected by E. Ashby near Monarto South in South Australia and named Correa turnbullii in 1939. It was renamed Correa rubra var turnbullii by J. Black in his Flora of South Australia in 1948. After that the variety was split up, with the dull-leaved form from Monarto named C. schlehtendalii and the glossy-leaved red-flowered form being included in the C. glabra var. glabra group. Wilson subsequently put the two forms together in his 1998 Revision and called the variety C. glabra var. turnbullii to distinguish the red-flowered C. glabra forms from those with green flowers. (From "Correas Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens." By Maria Hitchcock 2010 pp 111, 112.)



Correa glabra var. *turnbullii*

Our *Correa glabra* var. *turnbullii* has magnificent glossy green aromatic foliage which is quite dense. The plant has been trimmed into shape and is a good hedging type plant with red tubular flowers. The tips of the flowers are green. It flowers in summer and is bird attracting. We have found it very easy to propagate and we are told it is ideal to use for grafting purposes. I have in mind to try and graft other *correas* onto it.

Happenings in the Garden at Tarrawingee

by Michael O'Sullivan

This autumn, winter and spring has been the best three seasons in a row for many years. The autumn break came towards the end of February, and for once the rain continued well into May. The response of many plants in the garden, including the many correas was quite different to many other autumn breaks. Many seedlings appeared in the garden by early April. Most seem to be crosses between *Correa glabra* and either *Correa reflexa* or *Correa decumbens*. I transplanted several of these seedlings at the end of April and surprisingly they continued to grow through the winter months and then put on more growth in spring as the weather and soil warmed up. It will be interesting to see their flowers next autumn or winter.



A small garden seedling from a spring germination



A seedling from an autumn germination

Most of the correas in the garden are either autumn or winter flowering. This year the flowering was the best for many years. The puchella types such as Norma "B", and Coralie, were covered in flowers for many weeks. One of the better flowering reflexa types was *Correa Bob's Garden* which put on a great display for quite a few weeks.



Correa Bob's garden in flower in March



Correa Bob's Garden

There are now somewhere in the vicinity of ninety correa plants in the garden. Most have grown quite a bit in the last eight months. The largest correa plant in the garden is in the vicinity of four metres wide by four metres deep and 1.5 metres. The large *Correa* was sold to me as *correa schlehtendalii* but I now think it is a variety of *correa glabra* var. *turnbullii*. This plant has green flowers.



Happenings in the Garden at Tarrawingee (cont)

by Michael O'Sullivan

Correas in the garden include *C. Portland Peach*, *C. Mallee Pastel*, *C. Jingle Bells*, *C. decumbens*, *C. Coffin Bay*, *A. C. Puchella*, orange flowers from Streaky Bay, *C. lawrenciana* Form the big lift on the Nunniong Road, *C. reflexa* from Wooragee, *C. reflexa* from the roadside east of Orbost, *C. Coralie*, *C. white Ice*, *C. Norma B.*, *C. Pink Pixie*, *C. Wins Wonder*, *C. Autumn Blaze*, *C. Pink Mist*, *C. reflexa* from Pambula, *C. Catie Bec.*, *C. Boat Harbour*, *C. backhousiana*, *C. reflexa* from Tongio in the Tambo Valley, *C. reflexa* from near Tambo Crossing, *C. Ice Pink*, *C. reflexa* Carpenters Rocks, several *correa puchella* types grown from cuttings and as yet unnamed/ identified. Several types of *C. glabra*.

I have several *correa* plants grown from cuttings from Kangaroo Island which are growing in large pots which hopefully will flower next autumn winter. One did flower this year but had only one flower. It will be interesting to see the flowers as each of the plants have different leaf structures so hopefully the flowers will all be different



Correa reflexa Tongio



Correa reflexa Wooragee



Correa reflexa from near Tambo Crossing



Correa reflexa east of Orbost

I have found that the types of *Correa* plants growing in parts of east Gippsland are quite variable, even within a short distance. Travelling up the Great Alpine Road from Bruthen to Omeo The plants vary from small up to 400mm high for about ten km. north of Bruthen to 1.5m high at the top of the cutting near St. Patrick's Creek. At Tongio further up the road the plants can be small and straggly or up to 1.5m tall similar to to Tongio photo enclosed. You either have the green red types common over much of East Gippsland, to the green colours, to the green/green similar to the one I found east of Orbost.

The green *Correa reflexa* found at Wooragee, is very similar to a *Correa reflexa* growing at Mudgegonga. Both these *correas* are growing in granite country. The *Correas* growing up the Great Alpine Road are growing in clayey/shaley country. A similar flowered green/green *correa* I found growing near Avenel on the Hume Freeway.



Correa baeuerlenii - commonly known as "Chef's Cap Correa"

Would You Like a Job?

Have we an interested person or persons?

1. To take on the Correa Study Group Leadership?
2. To take on the job as Correa Study Group Newsletter?

For the moment we will continue but cannot promise to keep going forever.

FUTURE CORREA CRAWL - June 2021 ???? **See Pages 3-4 (From David Pye)**

We are considering a future Correa Crawl west of Melbourne assuming all is well by then.

This crawl could be based west of Melbourne, to include the Brisbane Ranges, Enfield, Bullengarook (green forms of *Correa reflexa*), Werribee Gorge (*Correa glabra*), and perhaps other areas near Ballarat. It might be possible to include the Melton Botanic Garden on the Monday morning, prior to the usual lunch and return home.

Please give us feedback as to whether you would be interested and please give any additional input regarding this proposal.

Financial Report

Donations Received:

Native Plants QLD ... \$20
APS. South Aust\$10

Bank Balance 30/11/2020 \$1,126.11

Membership

Currently we have a membership of 64 individual or couples.