

A NEW AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *OLEARIA* (COMPOSITAE)

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ABSTRACT

Lander, N.S. (National Herbarium of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia) 1975. A New Australian Species of *Olearia* (Compositae). *Telopea* 1 (1): 84-86.—*Olearia cordata* is described. This species is known only from two small populations on the Central Coast of New South Wales. It is most closely related to *O. tenuifolia* (DC.) Benth.

Olearia cordata N. Lander, sp. nov.

O. tenuifoliae (DC.) Benth. affinis praecipue differt foliis basi late cordatis vice angustatis et pappo sine serie exteriore pilorum brevium.

HOLOTYPE: NEW SOUTH WALES: $\frac{1}{2}$ mile [0.8 km] above Wisemans Ferry on road to Maroota, P. Matthew NSW 128087, 2.iii.1973 (NSW). ISOTYPES to be distributed to CANB and K.

Ascending branched shrub to 2 m, strongly aromatic. Stems, peduncles and both surfaces of leaves densely covered with both simple hairs and glandular, multicellular, patent hairs together with multicellular, appressed hairs; dorsal surfaces of outer involucral bracts densely covered with glandular, multicellular, patent hairs only. Leaves alternate, sessile, linear, each with broad cordate base and prominent mid-vein, 2.5-4.0 cm long, 0.4-0.8 cm wide at the base, margins entire, revolute. Capitula solitary on stout peduncles, each 2.2-3.5 cm in total diameter; disc 0.3-0.5 cm in diameter. Involucral bracts in 3-4 rows, lanceolate, acuminate, becoming less hairy towards the disc, inner ones with fimbriate margins, 2.5-5.0 mm long, c. 0.5 mm wide. Ray florets 12-18 in each capitulum, in one row, pistillate; ligules deep blue, 12 mm long and 1.5 mm wide, corolla tubes 2.5 mm long; mature styles c. 5 mm long, bilobed, each lobe 1 mm long, 0.1 mm wide. Pappus of 35-40 minutely barbate hairs, each hair 1.0-3.5 mm long. Cypsela somewhat flattened, 2.5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, with three prominent ridges on each side, densely clothed with simple hairs. Flowering period: of the specimens examined those collected in November, March and April were flowering.

DISTRIBUTION: NEW SOUTH WALES: **Central Coast:** Known only from two small populations, one on a rocky ridge $\frac{1}{2}$ mile [0.8 km] S. of Wiseman's Ferry, Boorman NSW 128085, 4.1908, Evans & Blaxell NSW 128086, 8.1961, P. Matthew NSW 128087, 3.1973; the other near Fernances Trig., St Albans Common, P. Matthew NSW 122291, 11.1973.

O. cordata appears to be closely related to *O. tenuifolia* (DC.) Benth. The latter species, which is similar in size and habit to *O. cordata*, is common in a wide variety of habitats on the Southern Tablelands and Central Western Slopes, and considerably less common on the South Coast, Central Tablelands and Western Plains of New South Wales. *O. cordata* and *O. tenuifolia* are easily distinguished as follows:—

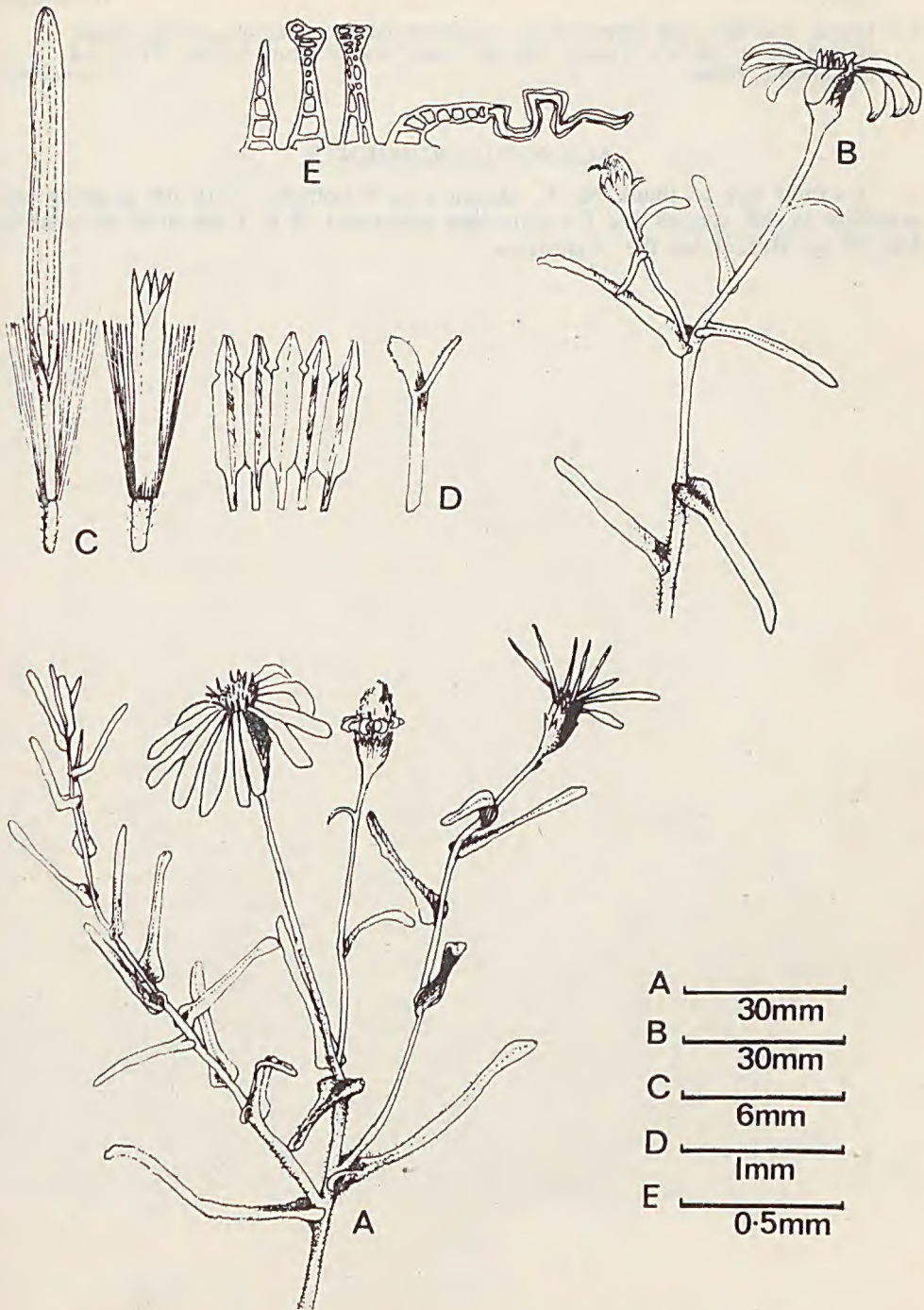


Fig. 1. *Olearia cordata*. A-B. Flowering branches. C. ray and disc florets. D. anthers and style. E. simple and glandular patent hairs and multicellular appressed hair.

1. Leaves not crowded, each with a broad, cordate base, densely glandular-hairy, never glabrous. Pappus without an outer row of short bristles. Fruit prominently ribbed *O. cordata*
- 1.* Leaves crowded, with narrow bases, glandular-hairy or glabrous, never densely clothed as *O. cordata*. Pappus with an outer row of short bristles. Fruit not prominently ribbed *O. tenuifolia*

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