

# ANPSA

## Correa Study Group

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**Membership fees:** normal \$10.00  
electronic \$6.00

### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This is now my eighth newsletter! South Australia has recently experienced several quite dramatic weather events!

To date we have already had 400 mm of rain which already exceeds last year's total of only 350 mm! The long term average was around 550 mm.

Also we have experienced some very strong cold fronts come through. One afternoon recently the temperature on the outside thermometer showed only 6.3 degrees at 2 pm!

The next day the outside temperature at the same time of day was closer to 15 degrees.

In the higher altitudes such as Mt. Lofty we even had light cover of snow!

What has been most interesting to observe this year has been the plants response to additional rainfall.

It has been the observation of myself and quite a few fellow members in the APS – SA Region that plants will tend to put on a flush of new growth and even flower when a significant rain event occurs – even if it is way out from their normal flowering season.

The other area I would like to make comment on is in regard to the amount of information being received from current Correa study group members.

### Newsletter No. 54 Mid 2016

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In the four years that I have now been compiling and distributing – both in electronic and paper form – the newsletter I have noticed a gradual decline in the number of articles and photos supplied.

The only way this study group will remain successful if for a steady contribution of articles and photos for the bi-annual newsletters.

For those members who have not renewed and wish to renew their membership, payment may be made either by posting a cheque made at to the 'ANPSA Correa Study Group' to the Admin & Editor's address listed above or by doing an EFT into the study group's cheque account – the details of which are below. If paying via EFT please email me a copy of the payment confirmation.

Kind regards Russell Dahms

Bank account details:

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 035-002

A/C No.: 310328

## Flinders Island Correas

### Maria Hitchcock

Some years ago in 1961 Paul Wilson re-classified the genus *Correa*. In the process he split off the Bass Strait Island *C. reflexa* from the mainland forms.

The Victorian form of *Correa reflexa* var *nummulariifolia* (such as those growing around Portland) was included with other forms of *C. reflexa* var *reflexa* and only the Bass Strait forms were classified as *Correa reflexa* var *nummulariifolia*. The type specimen was collected on Flinders Island.

For some years now I had a dream of travelling to Flinders Island to see if *Correa reflexa* var *nummulariifolia* resembled the mainland forms and to photograph it and document locations and habitat.

This January I had the chance to fly over with my husband and long suffering *Correa* hound, Don. We flew with Sharp Airlines from Essendon airport and hired a camper van for four days. There are only two available on the island so one has to get in early. You are only allowed 15 kg on the plane which restricts bringing camping equipment.

I can now tell you *Correa reflexa* var *nummulariifolia* does not resemble the mainland forms and I don't believe it is in cultivation.

The word 'nummulariifolia' means 'coin shaped'. The Flinders form is poorly named as the leaves are not round unlike some of the Victorian forms. It is more like the South Australian forms of *C. reflexa* var *scabridula* but with a green flower.



*C. reflexa* var *nummulariifolia* habitat  
Photographer: D. Hitchcock

We were lucky to find one half-chewed flower to photograph - it wasn't the right time for flowering. Finding populations of this species was relatively easy as there are several coastal reserves on the western side of the island.



*C. reflexa* var *nummulariifolia* shrub  
Photographer: D. Hitchcock

The species grows among granite rocks or limestone in coastal heath overlooking the sea.



*C. reflexa* var *nummularifolia* leaves  
Photographer: D. Hitchcock

We camped the first night at Trousers Point Picnic area and observed our first specimens. It is a low untidy shrub growing to 0.7m with hard leaves.



*C. reflexa* var *nummularifolia* flower  
Photographer: D. Hitchcock

We observed more specimens around the corner on Fotheringate Beach on a windswept rock shelf overlooking the beach. Here it took on a prostrate form. Similar observations were recorded at Lady Barron, Yellow Beach, Settlement Point and near Leeka.

Our van couldn't handle the sandy tracks leading to out of the way beaches so we probably missed several locations. You would need a 4WD to access these.

Along with *Correa reflexa* var *nummularifolia* we also observed *Correa alba* in several locations.

The first of these was at Long Point where we found what appeared to be two forms. One was a typical *C. alba* with greyish leaves and the odd white star flower. However under the shelter of some Casuarinas and Melaleucas we found a form of *Correa* which looked like and smelled like *C. glabra*. Without a flower it was impossible to determine the correct identification.



*C. alba*  
Photographer: D. Hitchcock

Pieces I sampled have now flowered and they appear to be *C. alba* but I'd like to see them as mature specimens in the garden before making a full description. We found similar forms at Cameron Inlet on the east coast.

I am now looking forward to introducing *Correa reflexa* var *nummulariifolia* into cultivation. This is strictly one for the collector as it is not a colourful shrub. I suspect it will be both frost and drought hardy and I will continue to monitor progress in my garden. I'll keep you posted.

### Correa Varieties - Maria Hitchcock

Maria Hitchcock would like to hear from members about the following varieties of Correas.

Can anyone supply me with cuttings of any of the following forms?

- C. Benara Bell
- C. Blush
- C. Lemon Twist
- C. Pink Profusion
- C. Raspberry Split
- C. Flat White
- C. alba var rotundifolia
- C Gill's Gem
- C. Pink Perfection
- C. Poorinda Grace
- C. Ivory Lantern
- C. Dinner Bells
- C. Christmas in July
- C. lawrenceana var genoensis
- C. Baby Doll
- C Flinders Ranges
- C. Fat George
- C. icicle
- C. Lime Splice
- C. Old Gold
- C. Portland Peach
- C. Multi Bella

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### Correa Photos - Brendon Stahl

The photo below is of Correa Pulchella Coffin Bay Form which is growing just outside our bedroom window and we observe honeyeaters including New Holland and Eastern Spinebill regularly visiting this plant.





*Correa aemula* is a shrub which is endemic to Australia. It grows up to a height of two metres.

The leaves are elliptical in shape and are densely hairy and are up to 7 cm long and 3 cm wide.

The pendent, tubular flowers are mainly produced between September and December and vary in colour from yellow to pale blue-green.

Below is an outstanding *Correa Reflexa* and I have several plants scattered around my garden at Elliminyt.



***Correa aemula* (Hairy Correa)  
- Russell Dahms**



Photographer: Russell Best

Link: [www.natureshare.org.au](http://www.natureshare.org.au)



Photographer: LE Stridvall

The idea for this short description of *Correa aemula* species stemmed from a member of the public's inquiry into the possible ID of a plant she had seen recently. The flower colour of *C. aemula* is highly dependant on where it is growing and the soil characteristics in the area.



Photographer: Russell Best  
Link: [www.natureshare.org.au](http://www.natureshare.org.au)

The species was first formally described in 1838 by botanist John Lindley in *Three Expeditions into the interior of Eastern Australia*. He gave it the name *Didimeria aemula*. In 1858 another botanist Ferdinand von Mueller, transferred the species into the genus *Correa*.

### **Correa aemula - Distribution**

*Correa aemula* occurs on sandy or rocky soils in open forests and heathy woodlands in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island in South Australia and the Grampians in Victoria. Hybrids with *Correa decumbens* and *Correa reflexa* have been recorded.<sup>[1]</sup>



Photographer: Russell Best  
Link: [www.natureshare.org.au](http://www.natureshare.org.au)



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All the below photos of *Correa aemula* are courtesy of the South Australia Seed Conservation Centre.

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/science-conservation/seed-conservation-centre>



Plant



Flower



Seeds



Remnant Flower