A NEW SPECIES OF *PULTENAEA* (FABACEAE) FROM SOUTH-EAST AUSTRALIA

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ABSTRACT

Corrick, M.G. A new species of *Pultenaea* (Fabaceae) from south-east Australia. **Muelleria 8(2): 119–122 (1994).** — *Pultenaea lapidosa* Corrick *sp. nov.* from north-east Victoria and central tablelands of New South Wales is described as new.

PULTENAEA LAPIDOSA

Pultenaea lapidosa Corrick *sp. nov.*

Pultenaeae subspicatae Benth. et *Pultenaeae aristatae* Sieber *ex* DC. similis, a priore foliis acuminibus longis infirmis terminatibus, a posteriore bracteolis trilobatis late differt.

TYPUS: Victoria, Eastern Highlands, 16 km ENE Omeo township on Old Track, NE of its junction with Scrubby Creek Track, 23 Nov. 1986, *M.G.Corrick 10029* (HOLOTYPUS: MEL; ISOTYPI: PERTH, CBG, NSW, K, BRI, HO.)

Low growing erect to decumbent shrub, 0.3–0.6 m high (rarely to 1 m high), young stems with sparse, pale hairs, old stems glabrous but retaining prominent stipular scars. *Leaves* alternate, petiole 1–1.5 mm long, appressed to stem, lamina spreading, linear to narrow elliptic, 6–16 mm long, 0.5–2 mm wide terminating in a long, fragile recurved tip, margin incurved, surfaces usually discolorous when dry, lower surface with sparse, long, tubercle-based hairs and midrib slightly raised, upper surface glabrous and midrib inconspicuous. *Stipules* dark brown to black, 4–5 mm long, joined behind the petiole and with long, slender recurved tip and very torn margin. *Inflorescence* a condensed, terminal, leafy raceme of 10–25 flowers, each flower subtended by a slightly reduced leaf with enlarged stipules. *Bracts* absent. *Calyx* 10–11 mm long including pedicel of 1 mm, tube glabrous, lobes acuminate 5–6 mm long narrowing abruptly into long slender tips and covered with long, pale hairs, upper two lobes very slightly broader and less deeply divided than lower three. *Bracteoles* brown, 5–6 mm long, attached to pedicel immediately below calyx tube, trifid due to the presence of bracteolar stipules, central lobe covered with long pale hairs and extending one-third to half way along length of calyx lobes, stipular lobes glabrous and scarious, all lobes terminating in fine, hair-like tips. *Standard* 11–12 mm long and 9–10 mm wide, deep orange with a paler central patch at the base surrounded by dark red lines, reverse side dark orange-red. *Wings* 10–11 mm long × 2.5–3 mm wide, deep orange. *Keel* 10–11 mm long × 3.5 mm wide, deep orange-red with dark brick-red shading along the abaxial suture. (In dried specimens the whole keel appears very dark brick-red.) *Ovary* sessile, 2 ovulate, 1.5 mm long. *Style* slender and gently curved, 7–8 mm long, summit of ovary surrounded by a tuft of pale, soft hairs otherwise glabrous. *Pod* ovate, 6–7 mm long, not protruding beyond calyx lobes, with a few long, fine hairs along adaxial suture at base of style. *Seed* obliquely ovoid 2.5–3 mm long × 2 mm wide, dark brown with an intricately lobed aril. (Fig. 1)

ETYMOLOGY

The specific name is taken from the Latin, *lapidus*, referring to the favoured habitat on rocky slopes.

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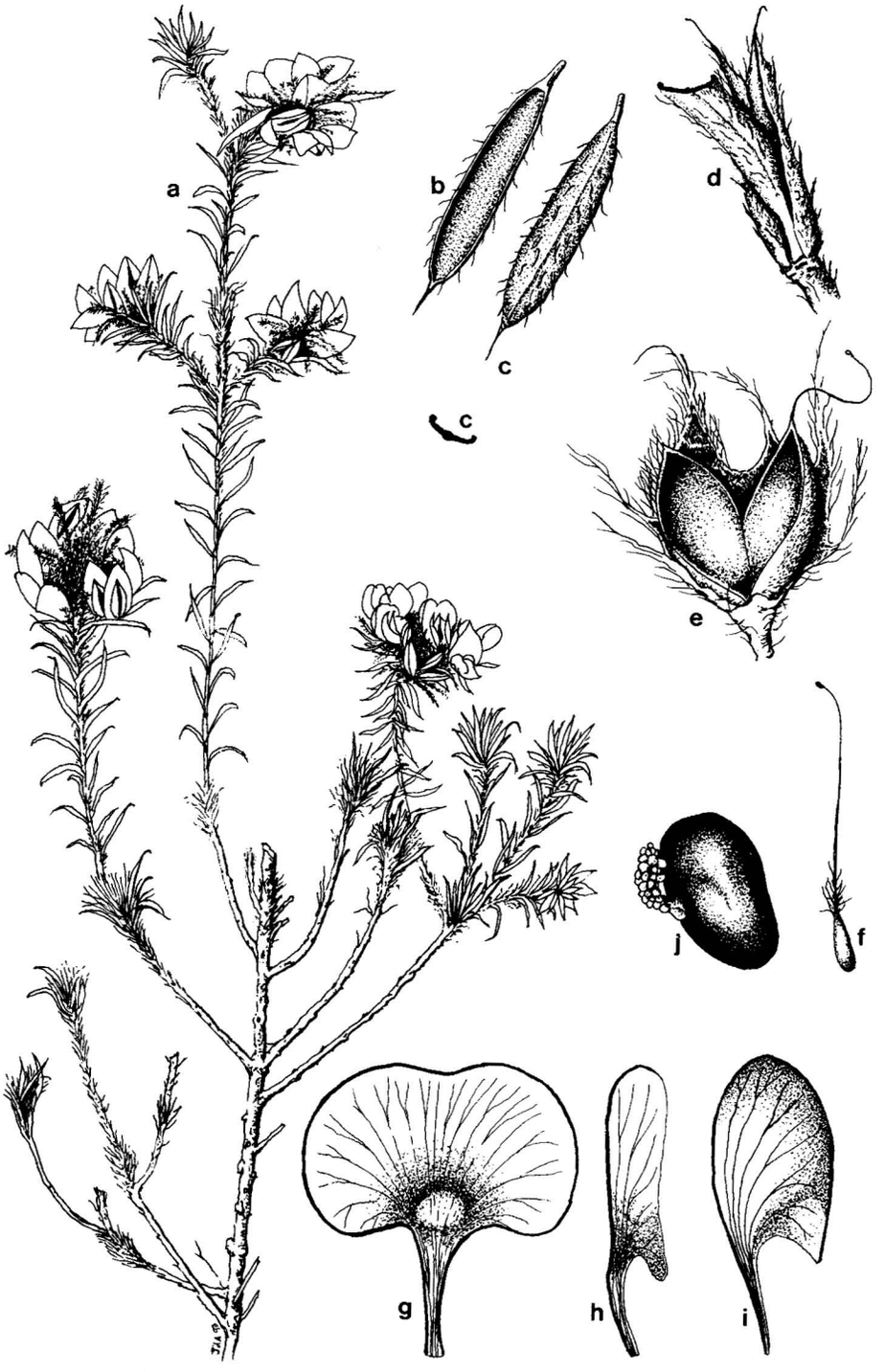

Fig. 1. *Pultenaea lapidosa*. a — flowering twig × 1. b — leaf, upper surface × 4. c. — leaf, lower surface and transverse section × 4. d — petiole section showing stipules × 8. e — calyx with empty pod × 4. f — gynoecium × 4. g — standard × 4. h — wing petal × 4. i — keel petal × 4. j — seed, side view × 8. (a-i from *M.G.Corrick 10029*; j from *J.Studwick 776*)

Other Specimens Examined (total number examined 36)

Victoria — 16 km ENE Omeo, 11 Dec. 1984, *G.W.Carr 10268* (CBG,MEL); Myrtleford Lookout, 29 Nov. 1989, *W.S.Wilson s.n.* (MEL 1579965).

New South Wales — Hill End, south side of Bald Hill, 31 July 1911, *R.H.Cambage 2761* (NSW); Mt Canobolas, 10 miles [16 km] SW of Orange, 8 Nov. 1960, *E.F.Constable s.n.* (NSW 52794); Eastern side of Warrumba Range, 12 Oct. 1973, *R.Coveny 5245* (NSW); 9 km W of Bell, 6 Nov. 1963, *R. Coveny 5323* (NSW); Mudgee Road, southern outskirts of Ilford, 14 Oct. 1978, *Mrs U.Johnson s.n.* (NSW 257617); Barton Nature Reserve, near Orange, 1974, *C.H.Pratten 16* (NSW); Napoleon's Reef, near Wallerawang, 4 Oct 1969, *J.H.Willis s.n.* (MEL 711446).

Distribution

Pultenaea lapidosa is known from two areas in Victoria, the type locality north-east of Omeo where two small, slightly disjunct populations have been seen, and the other near Beechworth. It has also been recorded over an area of the central tablelands of New South Wales roughly bounded by Grenfell, Ilford and Lithgow with most collections coming from round Bathurst and Orange. (Fig. 2)

Habitat

In Victoria *P. lapidosa* is confined to dry sclerophyll woodland on stony slopes with a sparse, low, shrub understorey. I have not seen the plant in the field in New South Wales but collectors notes (when present) confirm that most habitats there are similar.

Discussion

Pultenaea lapidosa is included in Ross (1993) as *P.* sp. aff. *subspicata* Benth. and in Weston (1991) as *P.* sp. F. It most closely resembles *P. subspicata*, which

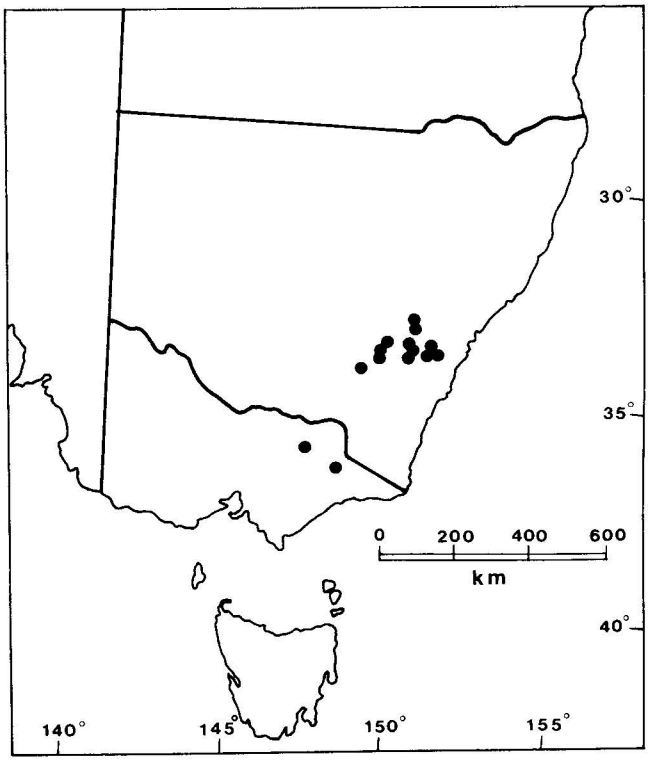

Fig. 2. Distribution of *Pultenaea lapidosa*.

differs in having smaller flowers and shorter obtuse leaves which lack the long, hair-like tip of *P. lapidosa*. *P. subspicata* also has shorter stipules more closely appressed to the stem and which lack the long, recurved tips of *P. lapidosa*.

Some collections have been annotated in the past as *P.* sp. aff. *aristata* Sieber *ex* DC. but the latter differs in having linear bracteoles without stipules and scabrid leaves with stellate hairs on young growth; simple hairs, when present are confined to the leaf margin.

P. lapidosa is a rare species. The two known localities in Victoria are on unreserved Crown Land; the population near Myrtleford adjoins a pine plantation and will need careful management to protect it from forestry operations.

In New South Wales *P. lapidosa* was first collected from Bald Hill near Hill End in 1911. The most recent collection sighted was from near Ilford in 1978. Several collections have come from Bathurst and Orange district, including one from Barton Nature Reserve suggesting its existence in at least one secured area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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