

NOTES ON THE GIPPSLAND WARATAH (*TELOPEA OREADES* F.v.M.), WITH A
DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES.

By EDWIN CHEEL.

(One Text-figure.)

[Read 25th September, 1946.]

In these PROCEEDINGS (lvi, 1931, xl), specimens of *Telopea oreades* F.v.M., which were collected at Bombala, N.S.W., were exhibited and recorded, and erroneously classified as the "Tasmanian Waratah", *Telopea truncata* R.Br. (see the *Sydney Morning Herald* for 16.xi.1931 and 21.xi.1931). Specimens were also shown at the same meeting, which although somewhat resembling the Tasmanian species in foliage, were regarded as sufficiently distinct from both *T. truncata* and *T. oreades* to be ranked as a new species. It will be noted that the latter was recorded by Maiden (1911) as *T. oreades* from the Braidwood district, New South Wales. The illustration in Maiden's Forest Flora under *T. oreades* depicts, in fact, only a solitary leaf of that species (Pl. 163, fig. N), which was originally described by Mueller (1860) and later by Bentham (1870). A later description by Mueller (1887-1888) reads as follows: "Finally quite arborescent; branchlets also glabrous; leaves large, firm, mostly obovate-lanceolar entire, their ultimate venules subtle; corolla crimson, slit unilaterally; glandule at the upper end of stalklets rather conspicuous". Moore and Betche (1893) recorded the species for "Coast district, from Moss Vale to Victoria" with the common name "Gippsland Waratah".

The remaining figures in Maiden's Forest Flora illustration (Pl. 163, figs. A-M) are from Braidwood district specimens and are quite distinct from *T. oreades*. *T. oreades* is stated by Mueller to be arborescent, and by Baker (1919) to be "a fair sized tree" producing "one of our most beautiful Australian ornamental timbers". Maiden (1911) states: "It has a diameter of 1½ up to 2 feet, and a height of 30 to 40 feet (Baeuerlen)". The Braidwood specimens, on the other hand, are shrubby plants, 3-7 feet high with slender branches. They are here designated:

TELOPEA MONGAENSIS, n. sp.

"Monga Waratah."

Frutex ramis gracilibus 1.0-2.3 m. longis; ramorum apices juveniles plus minusque lenticellati, paullo pubescentes. Folia glabra, lanceolata, integra vel apicibus 2-3-sinuosa, 7.5-10.0 cm. longa, 1-2 cm. lata, subtus pallida venulis quam in *T. oreades* et *T. speciosissima* tenuiovibus flores in racemis brevibus, latis, densis, planis, vel non convexis ut in *T. speciosissima*, glabris. Involucris bracteae coccineae, 1-2 cm. longae, mucronatae, glabrae praeter in marginibus tenuiter rubiginoso-ciliatis. Flosculae geminatae bracteolis circa 1 cm. longis praeditae. Folliculi 5.0-7.5 cm. longi stylo incluso.

Species ante id tempus cum *T. oreades* F.v.M. confusa.

Plants of a shrubby habit with slender whip-stick-like branches stringing from the root-stock and varying in length from 1.0-2.3 metres. Young or juvenile growth of the upper part of the branches slightly pubescent and more or less pitted with minute lenticels. Leaves glabrous, lanceolate, entire or with 2 or 3 sinuate lobes at the apex, especially in the juvenile stage, 7.5-10.0 cm. long, 1-2 cm. broad, slightly paler on the underside, the venation less conspicuous than in *T. oreades* and *T. speciosissima*. Flowers arranged in short, broad, compact racemes, flat or not domed as in *T. specio-*

sisima, glabrous, surrounded by crimson involueral bracts 1-2 cm. long, distinctly mucronate, glabrous except on the margins which are sparsely fringed with rusty-coloured hairs. Florets in pairs, supported by smaller bracteoles, about 1.0-1.5 cm. long. Fruit a follicle 5.0-7.5 cm. long from stipe to end of style.

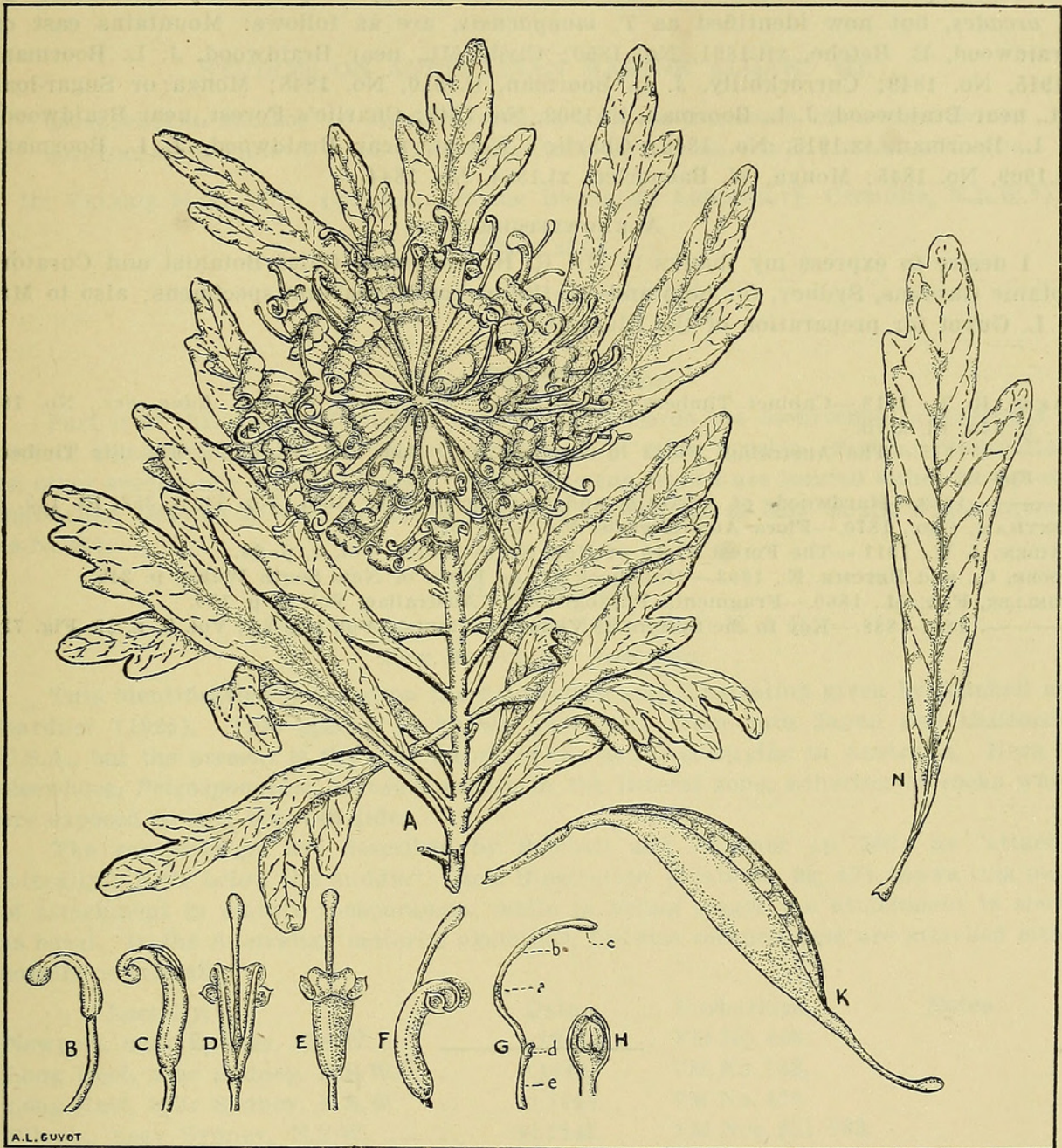


Fig. 1.—*Telopea mongaensis*, n. sp. A, Flowering twig; B, Bud; C, Bud more advanced; D and E, Front and back view of opened flower; F, Side view of same; G, Pistil showing: a, Stipitate ovary; b, Style; c, Stigma; d, Hypogynous gland; e, Pedicel; H, Anther; K, Follicle; N, Sinuate-lobed leaf. (All approximately half natural size.)

Holotype: Sugar-loaf Mountain, near Braidwood, J. L. Boorman, x.1915, No. 1842 in the National Herbarium of New South Wales.

Having visited Monga, near Braidwood, in October, 1932, I was fortunate in gathering seeds of the Monga plants which were cultivated at Ashfield. It was noted that the early stage of growth developed entire lanceolar-shaped leaves, and the upper leaves were 2- to 3-sinuate-lobed. Unfortunately the plants did not survive. It is interesting to note that Maiden (1911, p. 70) also states: "Attempts to cultivate it in the Sydney district have been a failure so far."

A note by Boorman on the holotype sheet, dated 6.xii.1915, reads: "Frutescent plants of 4-8 ft. high, much branches and forming close compact growing small shrubs,

popularly known locally as 'the Waratah.'" The specimen is illustrated in Fig. 1, prepared by Mr. Guyot, who has superimposed on the foliage of the type a flower head from another specimen: Monga, W. Baeuerlen, xi.1899, No. 1843 in the National Herbarium of New South Wales, that of the type being deficient.

Other specimens examined in the same Herbarium, all previously determined as *T. oreades*, but now identified as *T. mongaensis*, are as follows: Mountains east of Braidwood, E. Bêche, xii.1891, No. 1850; Clyde Mt., near Braidwood, J. L. Boorman, i.1915, No. 1849; Currockbilly, J. L. Boorman, ii.1910, No. 1848; Monga or Sugar-loaf Mt., near Braidwood, J. L. Boorman, iii.1909, No. 1847; Charlie's Forest, near Braidwood, J. L. Boorman, ix.1915, No. 1846; Charlie's Forest, near Braidwood, J. L. Boorman, iii.1909, No. 1845; Monga, W. Baeuerlen, xi.1884, No. 1844.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

I desire to express my thanks to Mr. R. H. Anderson, Chief Botanist and Curator, Botanic Gardens, Sydney, for help and for the use of Herbarium specimens; also to Mr. A. L. Guyot for preparation of the illustration.

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Cheel, Edwin. 1947. "Notes on the Gippsland waratah (*Telopea oreades* F.v.M.), with a description of a new species." *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 71, 270–272.

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