CRYPTANDRA EXILIS SP. NOV. (RHAMNACEAE),
A NEW SPECIES FROM EASTERN TASMANIA

by D.I. Morris

(with one table and one text-figure)

Cryptandra exilis sp. nov. (Rhamnaceae), a new species from eastern Tasmania, is described and figured. The new species has affinities with C. alpina Hook. f. to which it is compared.

Key Words: Tasmania, Cryptandra, Rhamnaceae.

In BANKS, M.R. et al. (Eds), 1991 (31:iii): ASPECTS OF TASMANIAN BOTANY — A TRIBUTE TO WINIFRED CURTIS.

Cryptandra exilis D.I. Morris, sp. nov.

Fruticulus usque ad 40 cm altus. Rami graciles, procumbentes vel effusi, ramuli pilis adpressis, simplicis, antrorsis. Folia 2–7 mm longa, in fasciculis in ramis brevibus lateralibus aggregata, arcte conduplicato-teretia, apice breviter mucronato. Florae ad apicem ramulum principalium una 2–6 fasciculatae vel interdum solitariae. Bracteae fuscae, scariosae, ad margines ciliatae, ad medium tubi floralis attingentes. Tubus floralis c. 2 mm longus, dense stallato-pilosus; lobi calysis c. 1.5 mm longi, basi stellato-pilosì, ad apicem pilis simplicibus erectis. Stylus c. 2.5 mm, longus. Capsula ad maturitatem c. 2.5 mm longa, basis gibbosa ovarii glabra vel sub-glabra. Semen c. 1.5 mm longum, atro-maculatum.

Tasmania: coastal and near-coastal heaths between The Gardens, north of St Helens, and Tasman Peninsula.

Specimens Examined
Tasmania: East Coast — J.G. Simmons s.n. (HO); M. & J. Simmons s.n. (HO); W.D. Jackson s.n. (HO). [Further details of specimens listed in this paper, e.g. collecting site and date, are available from the Herbaria noted or from the Royal Society of Tasmania Library (Archives), GPO Box 1166M, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia 7001. Ed.]

Discussion

The closest affinities of Cryptandra exilis are with C. alpina Hook. f. It differs from this species in a number of characteristics, as shown in table 1 (p.58).

Cryptandra exilis differs from C. ericoides Sm. in having no appressed simple hairs on the floral tube and in having a few simple and stellate hairs only at the base of the style.

Cryptandra exilis is known only from eastern Tasmania where it occurs in coastal and near-coastal heathlands at altitudes below 200 m. It has been recorded at a number of locations between The Gardens, north of St Helens, and Tasman Peninsula.

REFERENCE

(accepted 4 May 1990)

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FIG. 1 — Cryptandra exilis: (A) flowering branch, (B) cluster of flowers, (C) mature capsule enclosed in persistent floral tube, (D) mature capsule with floral tube removed, (E) seed. Scale lines: (A) 50 mm, (B–E) 5 mm. (Drawn from: A, B — Simmons s.n. (HO 40518); C, D, E — Jackson s.n. (HO 101271).)

TABLE 1
Comparison between Cryptandra exilis sp. nov. and C. alpina

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>C. exilis</th>
<th>C. alpina</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hairs on young branches</td>
<td>Simple, adpressed, antrorse</td>
<td>Stellate and simple mixed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>Usually in clusters of (2–)4–6</td>
<td>Usually solitary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovary base on mature capsule</td>
<td>Glabrous or sub-glabrous</td>
<td>Stellate-hairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed</td>
<td>Buff with darker mottling</td>
<td>Red-brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>East coast, coastal and near-coastal below 200 m a.s.l.</td>
<td>Central Highlands and Ben Lomond floristic regions between 975 and 1040 m a.s.l.</td>
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