

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*. Roy. Soc. Tasm. Hobart: 57-58. <https://doi.org/10.26749/rstpp.124.2.57>

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

Fruticulus usque ad 40 cm altus. Rami graciles, procumbentes vel effusi, ramulipilis adpressis, simplicis, antrorsis. Folia 2–7 mm longa, in fasciculos in ramis brevibus lateralibus aggregata, arcte conduplicato-teretia, apice breviter mucronato. Florae ad apicem ramulorum 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-pillosus; lobi calysis c. 1.5 mm longi, basi stellato-pilosi, 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.

Typus

Tasmania: *East Coast* (regions as Orchard 1988)-Apsley River, A. Moscal 439, 10.v.1980. Holotypus: HO 119721. Isotypus: AD.

Description

Subshrub up to 400 mm high. Stems slender, procumbent or straggling, young branches with antrorse appressed simple hairs. Leaves 2–7 mm long in fascicles on short lateral branches, tightly infolded-terete, apex shortly mucronate. Flowers in clusters of 2–6 or occasionally solitary, at the tips of the main branches. Bracts dark brown, scarious, margins ciliate, extending to about the middle of the floral tube. Floral tube c. 2 mm long, densely stellate-hairy; calyx lobes c. 1.5 mm long, stellate hairy at the base, with simple erect hairs at the apex. Style c. 2 mm long. Mature capsule c. 2.5 mm long, the expanded base of the ovary glabrous or sub-glabrous. Seed c. 1.5 mm long, buff, with darker mottling.

The name of the new species means slender and refers to the habit of the plant. The plant is illustrated in figure 1 (p. 58).

Distribution

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

ORCHARD, A.E., 1988: A natural regions map for Tasmania. *Pap. Proc. R. Soc. Tasm.* 122: 47–51.

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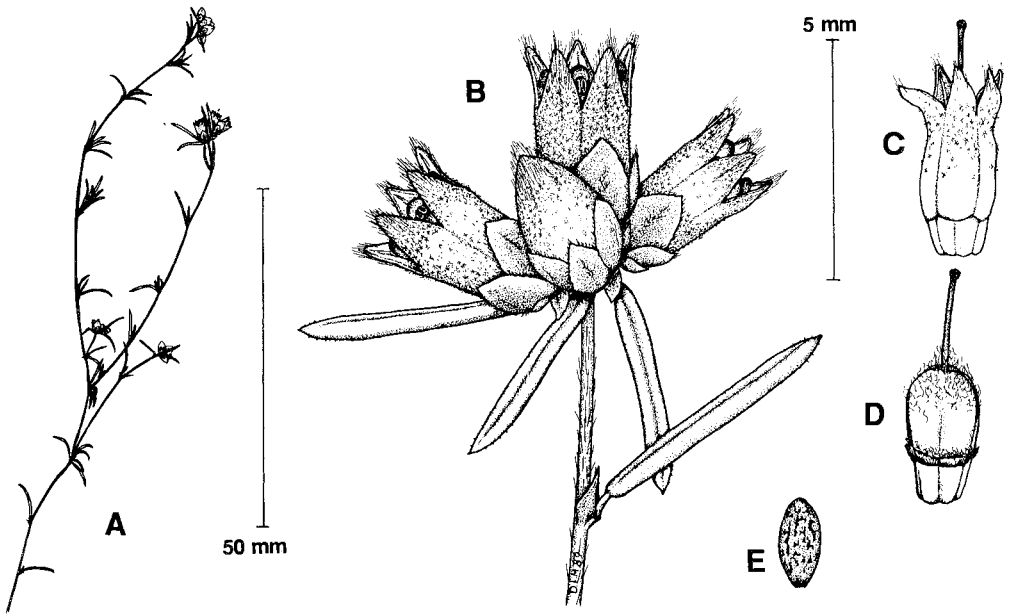


FIG. 1 — *Cryptandra exilis*: (A) flowering branch, (B) cluster of flowers, (C) mature capsule enclosed in persistent floral tube, (D) mature capsule with floral tube removed, (E) seed. Scale lines: (A) 50 mm, (B–E) 5 mm. (Drawn from: A, B — Simmons s.n. (HO 40518); C, D, E — Jackson s.n. (HO 101271).)

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

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