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## NOTES ON THE TAXONOMY OF *HAKEA EPIGLOTTIS* LABILL.

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The genus *Hakea* Shrad. is represented by about 130 species, only a few of which occur in Tasmania where *H. epiglottis* and *H. megadenia* are endemic. *H. megadenia* has been recently described in a review currently being undertaken by Mrs R.M.Barker at the The Botanic Gardens of Adelaide and State Herbarium (Barker, 1991).

My observations of *H. epiglottis* and *H. megadenia* are summarised in figure 1.

Flower colour is quite distinct in both species and there are no intermediate shades. There is never any red in the flowers of *H. epiglottis*. The red illustrated in the flowers in Curtis and Stones (1978) is not true of fresh flowers. I speculate that this is caused by the colour changing as the flowers wilt. This is noticeable in the related garden plant *H. laurina*.

I differ with Barker (1991) about fruit sizes. Barker claims that fruit sizes overlap in the two species, with a maximum length of 28mm for *H. epiglottis*. This may be due to earlier confusion in herbaria collections of *H. epiglottis*, which in Tasmania have been known under the names *H. rugosa* and *H. rostrata*. Neither of these species is now thought to grow naturally in Tasmania.

There is some variation in the populations of *H. epiglottis* between the lowland form at Margate and the highland form at Wombat Moor. The leaves of the Wombat Moor population of *H. epiglottis* are much more appressed and the shrubs are more compact and have a decidedly different appearance. I speculate that there are two ecotypes: one alpine and one coastal. Opposed to this view is the fact that I have not seen any intermediate populations. In fact the common species at middle altitudes in *H. lissosperma*. More work is required to establish

Character	<i>H. epiglottis</i>	<i>H. megadenia</i>
Fruit Size	14-19mm	20-29mm
Flowering Time	October - December	April - May; male trees flower more prolifically
Flower Colour	Bright lemon-yellow	White to cream or pale greenish-white
Habit	Bushy, compact; nothing higher than two metres observed	Upright and up to five metres high
Lignotubers	None noticed but stem crooked from ground up	None noticed; stem goes straight up
Reproductive habit	Dioecious, although one or two mostly male trees supported a single small fruit	Dioecious

**Figure 1.** *H. epiglottis* from Wombat Moor, Mt Field National Park, and near Margate. (Note: The *H. epiglottis* illustrated in Curtis (1978) from Wombat Moor and Breona is presumed to be an alpine species. The material collected close to Margate tallies in most respects with the alpine type but I have some reservations until it can be seen in flower.) *H. megadenia* from the end of Van Morey Rd., Margate, Orford and Cherry Tree Hill near Cranbrook. (Note: Fruit from the Cranbrook location was noticeably smoother than from other locations.)

whether these two forms are different enough to warrant the recognition of two species. Perhaps photographs attached to herbarium collections would help with this decision.

An omission from the distribution maps in Barker (1991) is *H. megadenia* from south of Hobart. Mrs Hansson's records show that a population exists on Snug Tiers, close to the only overlapping populations of bi-sexual and uni-sexual populations of *H. epiglottis*.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mrs Betty Hansson of Margate provided local information that simplified both observation and data collection in that area.

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