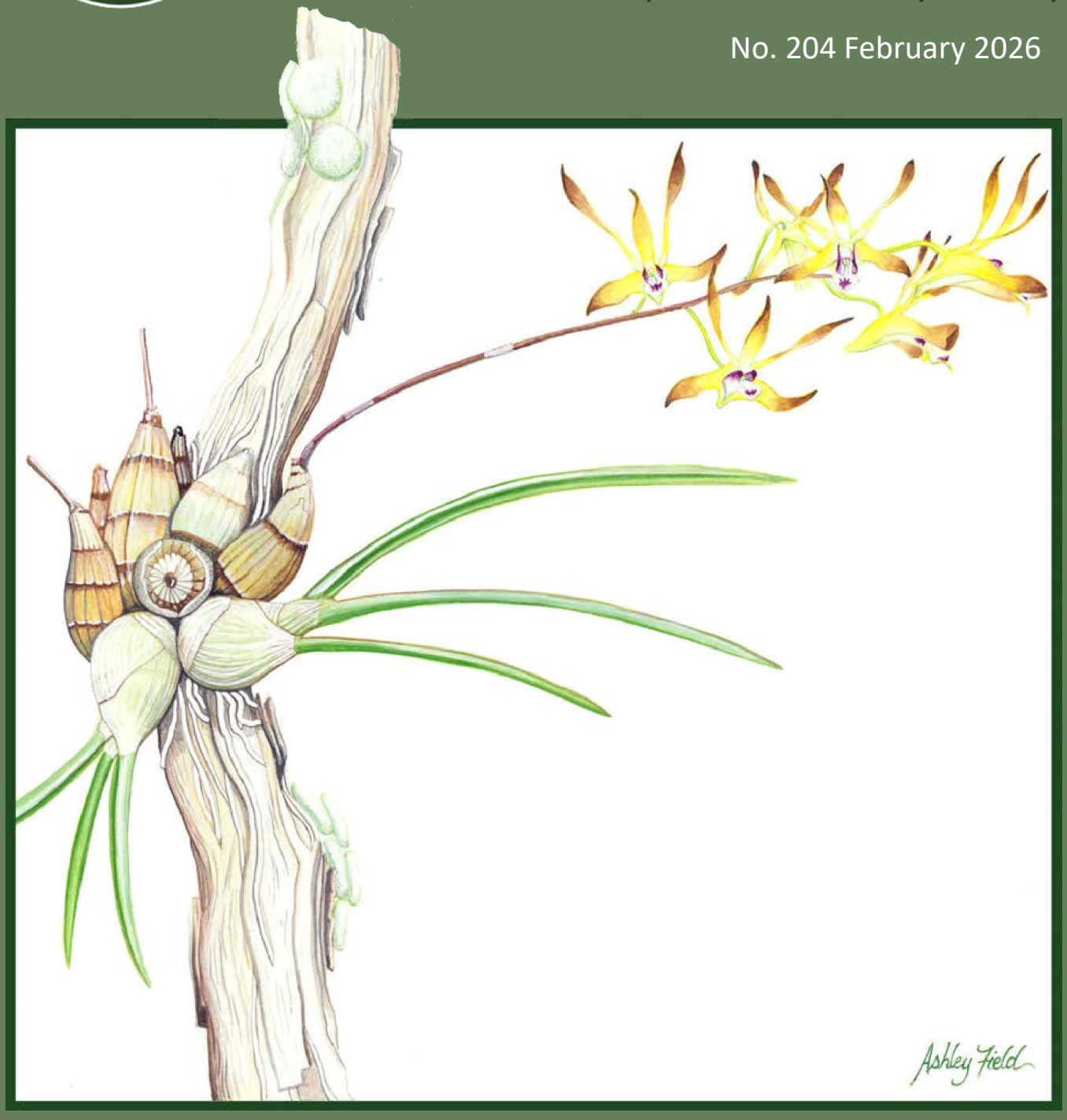
Newsletter

Australasian Systematic Botany Society

No. 204 February 2026



Previous issue No. 203 published 16 December 2025 (digital)

In this issue

From the President

Jennifer Tate, Massey University

As the first newsletter of 2026, I hope it is not too late to wish everyone a happy new year. I'm sure the summer has been busy with field work or summer courses or just being on holiday. Here in New Zealand, it hasn't felt much like summer with more rain and cooler temperatures than usual, which is a stark contrast to the extreme temperatures experienced in Australia. Our thoughts are with those dealing with environmental extremes this summer of flooding or fires.

As many of us are back to University teaching, it is always an invigorating time to have students back on campus and eager to learn. We know botany is not always the most popular subject amongst students (except for the enlightened ones!), but our ability to expose students from different subject areas to taxonomy and systematics is really important. Here at Massey, our plant biology major has undergone a rebranding and alignment with horticulture. We've launched a new Bachelor of Horticultural and Plant Systems program with Horticulture Production and Integrative Plant Biology majors. Now, this isn't meant to be an advertisement for our program, but our re-alignment means that new cohorts of students will take our Plant Diversity course where they learn native plant names (Latin, Māori, and English common names), learn about systematics and taxonomy, and make herbarium collections. Most students love the herbarium project and find these a real source of pride. Teaching students from diverse disciplines the relevance of taxonomy and systematics demonstrates the impact of our science, which is even more important these days.

As ever, the newsletter highlights all the great work being done by members of the society. Council will be meeting in the coming month, now that most are back at work. I hope to share some plans for the year in the next newsletter.

--Jen

From the Editor

Helen Kennedy

Newsletter Issue 204 is brought to you from a very toasty Canberra. At a little over 32°C today, it almost feels mild compared to January's heatwaves — when the air-conditioned compactus aisles of the Australian National Herbarium became mysteriously more popular than usual.

If you too are sheltering from the heat, perhaps this issue will offer some comfort and diversion until milder conditions coax us back out into the field. Inside, you'll find careful taxonomic detective work, energetic institutional updates, and the unmistakable enthusiasm of botanists at every career stage.

Stay hydrated — and happy botanising.

Our annual trip to Back Creek TSR near Braidwood, NSW with the VBTP trainees demonstrated how dry this summer has been. My favourites from this site, *Ornduffia reniformis* and *Philydrum lanuginosum* sat exposed as their ponds receded, looking decidedly parched and reminding us how quickly seasonal conditions can reshape familiar field sites.

Making it Official – A long Overdue Commitment to ASBS

Pat Hannah, Journal Manager, CSIRO Publishing (pat.hannah@csiro.au)

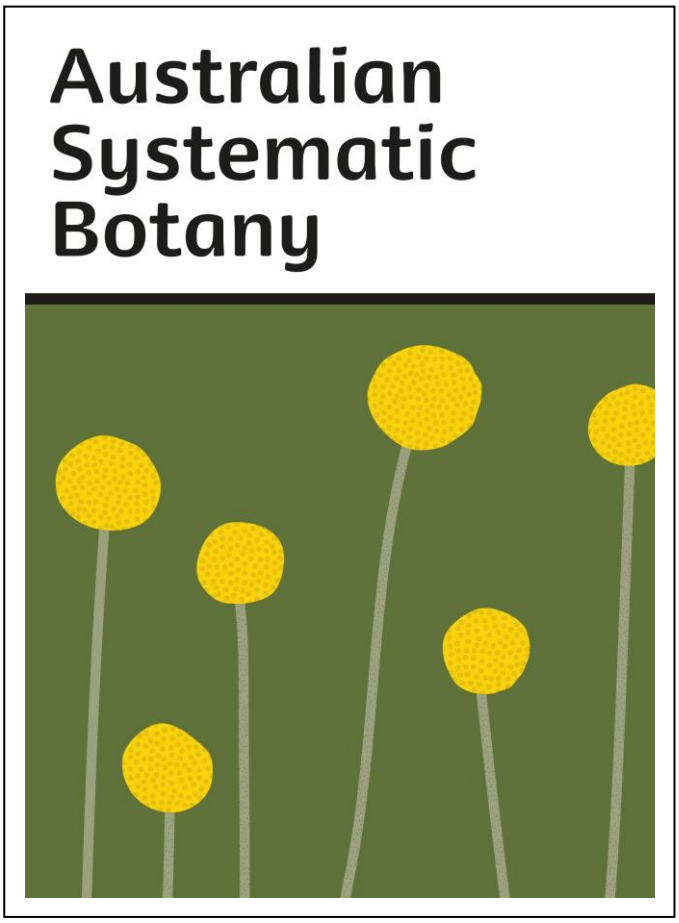
Australian Systematic Botany (Australian Systematic Botany | ConnectSci) has a long-standing partnership with the Australasian Systematic Botany Society. Since 2008, the journal has supported the Pauline Ladiges Prize and has been the publishing home for many manuscripts from Society members.

In recent discussions, it became clear to journal staff that we could do more to support Society members into the future. As a result, and following conversations with Society leadership, a long-term agreement between ASBS and ASB was finalised toward the end of 2025. This two-year agreement, with the option to extend, strengthens Australian Systematic Botany's annual commitment to the Society and guarantees ongoing conference support from the journal.

In addition, ASBS members now receive a 30% discount on Open Access fees and a 20% member discount on all CSIRO Publishing books. These benefits complement the support already available to Australian authors through our Read and Publish Agreements (connectsci.au/sb/pages/open-access#library-funded-agreements). Over the next two years and beyond, we will continue to promote the Society, help grow its membership base where we can, and amplify the voices of your community to support systematic botany research throughout the country.

This brings me to the core mission of this agreement. While it offers financial benefits and helps reduce publishing barriers for members, our deeper purpose as a not-for-profit publisher is to refocus academic publishing on the communities it serves. Publishers should operate as service providers, and through this agreement we want to demonstrate that commitment, that supporting the communities who support us is simply the right thing to do. By elevating your work and making the journey from submission to publication to dissemination as seamless as possible, we hope to set a clear example of what a true publishing partner should be.

Thank you for your continued support of our journal. If you have any questions at all, the team is always happy to hear from you.



Australian populations of the *Symphyotrichum subulatum* complex (Asteraceae) are *S. squamatum*

Alexander N. Schmidt-Lebuhn, CSIRO, Australian National Herbarium
Brendan J. Lepschi, Australian National Herbarium

The *Symphyotrichum subulatum* (Michx.) G.L.Nesom complex (Asteraceae tribe Astereae), formerly part of *Aster* L., is native to the Americas but naturalised as a weed in many countries across the globe, including in Australia. The complex was long treated as a single, polymorphic species with five varieties and therefore recognised in Australian floras and checklists as *S. subulatum*. However, a taxonomic revision by Nesom (2005) elevated the five varieties to species rank (Nesom 2005), and a sixth species has since been recognised on the basis of morphometric and molecular data (Dahal *et al.* 2023).

This raises the question which of the species in the complex occur in Australia. Nesom (2005) considered *Symphyotrichum squamatum* (Spreng.) G.L.Nesom to be the only species to be naturalised outside of its native range and implied that he had confirmed its presence in Australia, albeit without citing specimens. As of the time of writing, the Australian Plant Census recognises *S. squamatum* as naturalised in Western Australia and *S. subulatum* as naturalised in all other states and territories including Christmas Island, Lord Howe Island, and Norfolk Island (https://biodiversity.org.au/nsl/services/search/taxonomy, accessed 8 January 2026). It seems plausible that the continued recognition of *S. subulatum* in most of Australia reflects merely outdated taxonomy.

Although both Nesom (2005) and Dahal *et al.* (2023) provided identification keys, the characters used to differentiate *S. squamatum* and *S. subulatum* are partly overlapping (e.g., inner phyllaries 4–6.5 mm in *S. squamatum* long versus 6–7 mm long in *S. subulatum* according to Nesom), or only reliably visible on live specimens (usually 3, rarely 2 series of ray florets in *S. squamatum* versus 2 series in *S. subulatum* according to Dahal et al.), or difficult to visualise based on the descriptions (e.g., capitulescence structure). Neither publication illustrated any characters.

We therefore examined specimens identified as *Symphyotrichum subulatum* by Nesom to better understand how to interpret the keys. In our opinion, the shape and extent of the green (herbaceous as opposed to membranous) area of the inner phyllaries is the most useful distinguishing character for herbarium specimens. The following key summarises the relevant information from both taxonomic papers (Nesom 2005; Dahal *et al.* 2023):

> Green area on inner phyllaries broadly lanceolate, nearly absent from the basal third to half (Fig. 1A) … *Symphyotrichum squamatum*
>
> Green area on inner phyllaries narrowly lanceolate, usually extending the full length (Fig. 1B) … *Symphyotrichum subulatum*

We then examined the 106 Australian specimens of the *Symphyotrichum subulatum* complex at CANB to confirm whether they all represented *S. squamatum* or if a second species was present in the country. We found that all specimens with the exception of those that were too juvenile or too senesced to be identifiable represented S. *squamatum*, with the exception of one misidentified specimen of *Dittrichia graveolens* (L.) Greuter.

Because the available specimens covered all Australian states and territories including Christmas Island and Norfolk Island, we conclude that *S. subulatum sens. str.* is unlikely to be present in Australia. We recommend that Australian plant checklists and censuses be updated to recognise the naturalised populations of the *S. subulatum* complex as *S. squamatum* and treat previous uses of *S. subulatum* in an Australian context as misapplication.

Selected Australian specimens of *Symphyotrichum squamatum* examined

Western Australia. 2.9 km NW of Bannister on Albany Highway towards North Bannister, 17 Feb 1996, *B.J. Lepschi 2526 & T.R. Lally* (CANB 493783!, AD 99707474, BRI AQ0588774, PERTH 4433823); New South Wales. 'Rotherwood', at boundary fence with 'Bundong', on edge of Lake Bathurst, 27 Mar 1994, *E.M. Canning 6893* (CBG 9402320!, NSW, MEL, UNSW,

MO); West side of the Hume Highway, S of the Avon Dam Road, 12 Apr 2012, *R.G. Coveny 19516 & A.E. Orme* (AD, BRI, CANB 824878!, CBG 9402320, HO, K, L, MEL0723445, MO, NSW 298813, UNSWDB8034); Red Bobs Reserve, about 40 km south west of Gunnedah, 30 Jan 2005, *J.R. Hosking 2576* (BRIT, CANB 591764!, MEL 2361506, MEL 2360171, NE 94383, NSW, PERTH 07126204, PERTH 7126212); Australian Capital Territory. Mulwala House bus stop, 3 Apr 1962, *I. Beeton s.n.* (CBG 24541!).

Specimens of *Symphyotrichum subulatum* examined

USA. Arkansas. Beside Union County Rd. 25 one mile north of Urbana near a branch of Richmond Creek, 22 Oct 1987, R.D. Thomas 103102 (NLU 64107!); just E of Lawson and S end of Ark. 129, 22 Oct 1987, R.D. Thomas 103117 (NLU 64106!); beside a branch of Mill Creek two miles north of Old Union and Ark. 15, 7 Oct 1988, R.D. Thomas 107952, E. Sundell & C. Amason (BRIT 704102!, TEX 617208!); along a branch of Richmond Creek beside Union County Road 25 one mile north of Urbana, 7 Oct 1988, R.D. Thomas 108025 (NLU 64103!). Nebraska. Lancaster County, just west of Lincoln, at Oak Lake, 7 Oct 1974, S.P. Churchill 4862 (NLU 64109!); Lancaster County, Oak Creek Park by Salt Creek north of Uni. of NE campus at Lincoln, 22 Sep 1984, P. Shildneck C-14017 (TEX 617207!).

Acknowledgements

We thank the herbarium of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT, including NLU) for a specimen loan and gift, and the herbarium of the University of Texas at Austin (TEX) for a specimen loan.

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Nesom GL (2005) Taxonomy of the *Symphyotrichum* (Aster) *subulatum* group and *Symphyotrichum* (Aster) tenuifolium (Asteraceae: Astereae). SIDA, *Contributions to Botany* 21(4), 2125–2140.

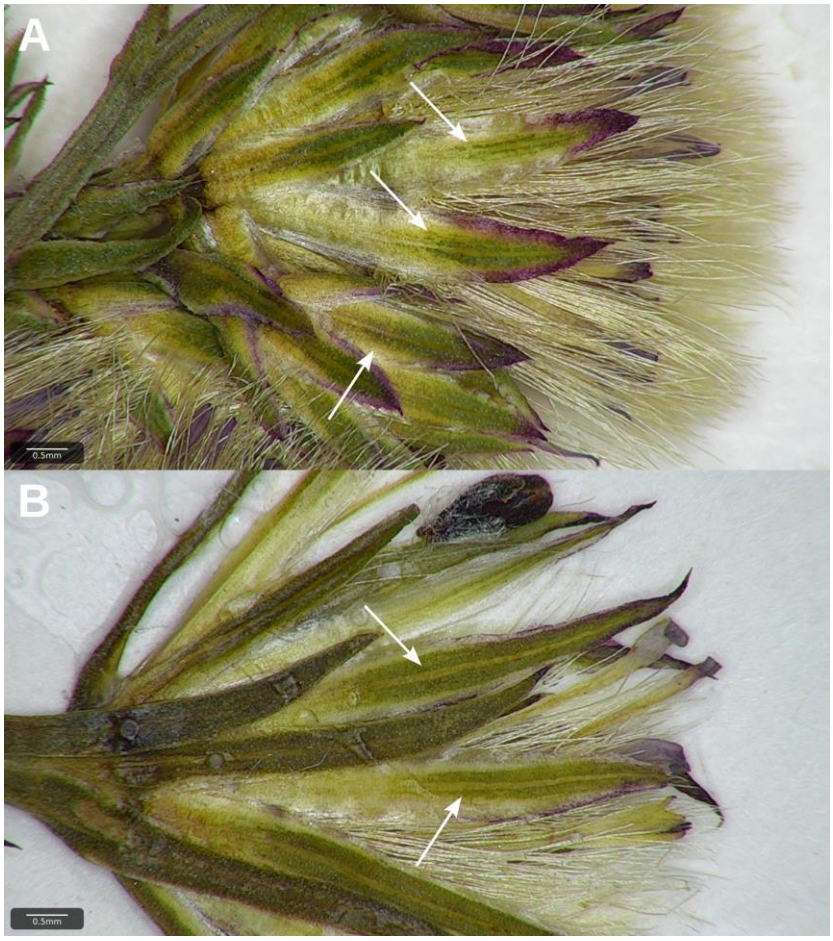


Figure 1. Shape and extent of green area on inner phyllaries. A. broadly lanceolate and restricted to apical section of phyllary in *Symphyotrichum squamatum* (I. Beeton *s.n.*, CBG 24541). B. narrowly lanceolate and running through most of the phyllary in *Symphyotrichum subulatum* (P. Shildneck C-14017, TEX 617207).

Volunteer Botanical Training Program 2026

Sam Lestavel and Clare Finnigan

On the 5th of January 2026, eleven enthusiastic amateur botanists met online for the commencement of the annual ANBG Volunteer Botanical Training Program. The first half of this six-week program was conducted online, where participants gained knowledge and experience about a wide variety of projects over the course of eighteen virtual sessions. Much of this knowledge would have practical application in weeks 4–6 of the Training Program, conducted in-person at the Australian National Herbarium (ANH) in Canberra, ACT.

Early lessons included instruction on best-practice methods of collecting and note-taking, as used by professionals collecting specimens for the ANH. Geocoding, plant identification skills, and database tools were also revised. We were then invited to collect and press plant samples from our local area at home, using these learnt skills. Our specimens would form the basis for later in-person instruction on how to mount samples onto herbarium sheets, and how to ensure we provided the most useful data in their associated notes, led by Dr Helen Kennedy. Excitingly, some of our local plant samples have now been immortalised by incorporation into the ANH collection.

Participants were also given a refresher on the conventions of plant nomenclature and description, and how this shapes modern systematics. For anyone who had ever rolled their eyes at a long-held taxonomic name suddenly changing, this provided some welcome insight on the function of such revisions, and what they represent. We also learned about valuable specimen databases and online resources which may assist us in future research, including the compilation of the Flora of Australia by the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS). The fascinating work of the ABRS emphasised again the importance of taxonomy to numerous areas, from threatened species conservation to biosecurity and invasive species management, and understanding the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

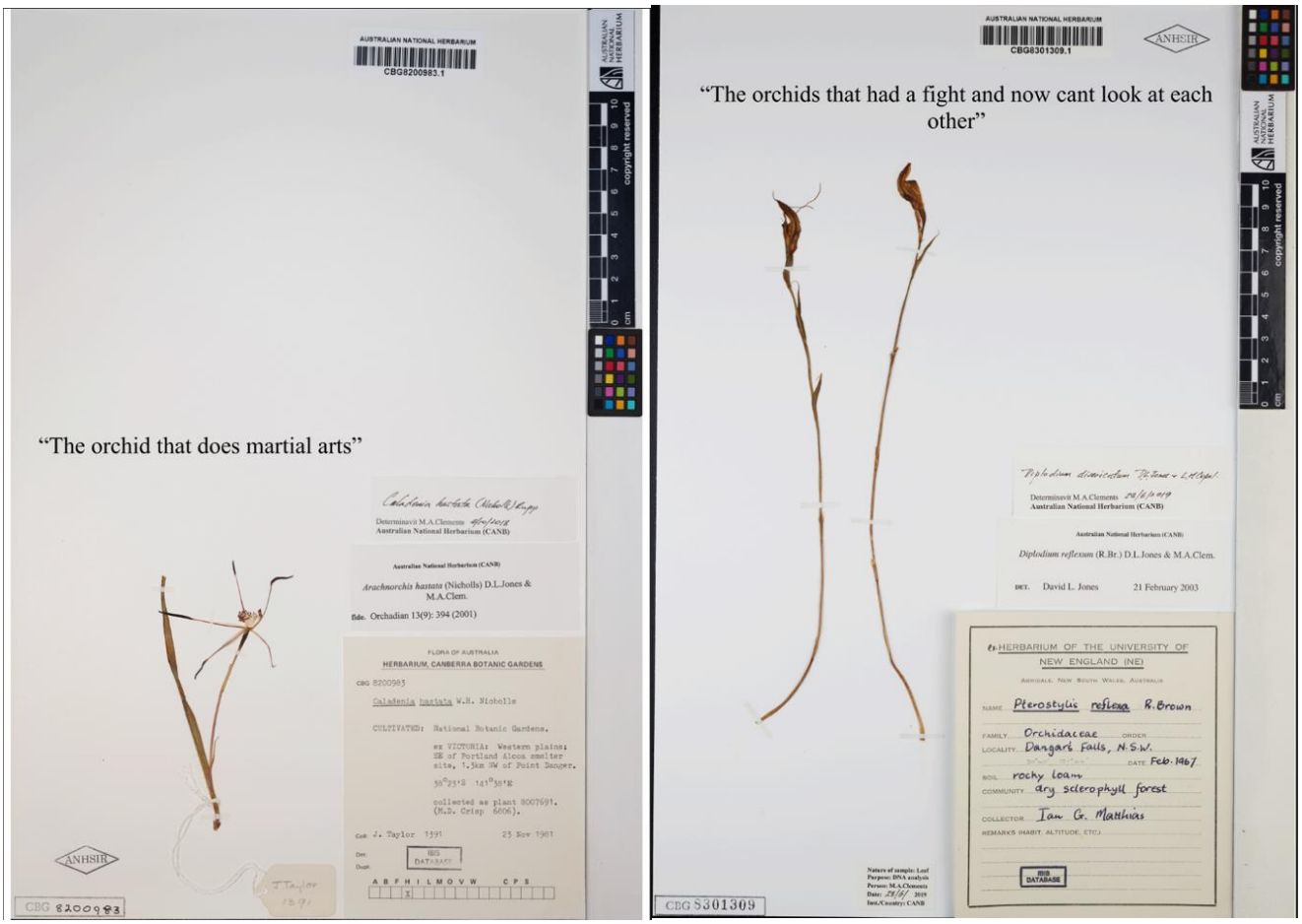
The practical application of systematics was also emphasised over the course of two sessions with Dr Alexander Schmidt-Lebuhn. Dr Schmidt-Lebuhn shared insight into how modern genomics can reveal the evolutionary journey of Australian plants. He particularly highlighted ongoing research at ANH into the Queen of Sheba orchid (*Thelymitra variegata*). This threatened species belongs to a group of native ground orchids which represents approximately 75 per cent of Australia's orchid diversity, but until recently, we did not have a reference genome for this group. It is hoped that investigation of the genetics of *T. variegata* may hold new insights into orchid flower development. You can read more about this work here. Dr Schmidt-Lebuhn also shared his insights on the important function of taxonomy and phylogenetics in invasive species management and biosecurity. Fundamentally, one takeaway became clear to all of us: knowledge of what a plant is, and what it is genetically similar to, provides an invaluable scaffold for understanding its ecological impact and management.

Our venture into the land of orchids continued with our involvement in the CSIRO's orchid digitisation project. Mark Clements and David Jones are two of Australia's pre-eminent orchid taxonomists, and Mark's incredible floral card collection, spanning 40 years of orchid observations, has recently been imaged in part and the images made available online. Our help was needed to match these amazing images with their annotations, usually handwritten on the borders of each card. This exercise underlined the importance of having detailed yet neat handwriting for collections, as the volunteers battled their way through chicken scratch handwriting and lacking details. It was all worth it, as our work has helped ANH's digital orchid floral card collection become more accessible for researchers or orchid lovers to view worldwide.

Biodiversity and keystone ecological interactions were another feature of our learning, and we were incredibly fortunate to have a number of online sessions with CSIRO researchers. Dr Liz Milla spoke to us about plant pollinator communities, and talked us through some fascinating studies involving *Boronia megastigma* and

moths in the Heliozelidae family. These moths have formed a unique symbiotic relationship with the *Boronia megastigma*, evolving specific morphological traits to pollinate flowers, and in return gaining a reproductive advantage by imbedding their larvae into the Boronia's ovules. Those interested can read more about Dr Milla's work here.

Finally, following three weeks of seeing each other only as square tiles on a video call, we were all able to rendez-vous at the CSIRO Black Mountain site in Canberra. In our first week we learned the intricacies of how the Australian National Herbarium's cataloguing system operates, managing a database of thousands of vascular plant samples. We also learned how to mount pressed plant samples onto the ANH's herbarium sheets, and ensure they were labelled correctly before incorporation into the collection. We were surprised to learn that a cohort of dedicated volunteers ordinarily give up their time to perform this function for the herbarium; though as we settled into it, many of us found the rhythm of adhering the pressings to sheets rather meditative.



Orchids with a personality: While incorporating orchid donations into the herbarium collection, members Zoe and Clare found that the beautiful, pressed orchids have a certain amount of attitude. Really look at the orchids. You'll see it.

Our following weeks involved a number of excursions outside the walls of the Herbarium. Dr Michael Doherty took us through his research and explained the basics of the amazing bushfire recovery systems plants have - their sprouting capabilities from lignotubers and seed. This was followed by a beautiful walk on Black Mountain, comparing areas that had been frequently burnt with those that hadn't been burnt in many years. This experience highlighted how Australian plant communities may react quite differently to various fire regimes, and suggested a hopeful prognosis for the long-term resilience of Australian plant communities, in the face of increased bushfire frequency and intensity due to climate change. Another excursion to the CSIRO Bushfire Research Centre turned up the heat, so to speak, on our understanding of fire management in Australia. A few days after our formal tour, we were hastened back to see a live experiment be conducted in the lab! It was an

amazing science-in-action moment. We were similarly awestruck visiting both the Australian Tree Seed Centre, and the National Seed Bank. Once again the theme of fire was present in the germination techniques required to germinate many of our native plants.

Lighting the fire in the lab: after putting a “come quick!” call out to Bronwyn and the team after the right temperature and weather conditions, the bushfire research team laid a bed of fine fuels in the tunnel to ignite. This image shows fine fuels glowing, something that when the wind picks up, they fly around and start new fires.

Another unforgettable day during the program was our local flora field trip. A team of CSIRO staff drove us to seven locations around the ACT and NSW to look at examples of different local botanical communities. It was amazing to be able to walk with botanists and hear them talk about native plants in the field. We also enjoyed a classic botanist experience, noticing how everyone in the group stopped every two metres (or less!) to look at something that had caught their eye! We mused on how this unique experience is hard to explain or replicate walking with a non-botanically inclined person. We also enjoyed an instructive tour of the Cryptogam section of the ANH, housing a jaw-dropping array of bryophytes, lycophytes, fungi, and lichens (also sometimes known as lichenised fungi).

This program was overall a wonderful experience. We extend our deep thanks to Bronwyn Collins (a former trainee!), without whose efforts the program would not function, along with the entire Australian National Herbarium team. We were proud to learn that we made a significant contribution to the function of the ANH during our time in the program; we managed to mount approximately 620 specimens ready to be photographed, incorporated 11 boxes of orchid specimens and alphabetised a remaining 11, and organised 16 boxes of Poaceae into their respective tribes. We also confirmed the identification of 15 Ericaceae species and

identified a further 13 specimens for a consultancy firm (including tricky *Rytidosperma*!). We also helped update 4 boxes of *Pseudognaphalium* samples recently re-determined by Alexander Schmidt-Lebuhn, cut up and allocated 226 pages of labels to various samples donated by Josephine (Jose) Eyde Piggin. In a fascinating exercise for us, we also tested-out gathering botanical field data collection using 360° cameras using a brand new software called Pannotator.

Out and about: the team follows the experts on a seven-stop field trip around the ACT and NSW, identifying and learning about the local flora.

We have all left shiny-eyed, with a deeper passion and understanding of the fascinating botanical systems which surround us. From the mouths (or keyboards) of some of our cohort:

"The program introduced us to a wealth of programs and resources, along with a network of researchers and their projects. I've left, inspired and rich with information about a range of botanical processes, projects and associated technologies." - Remy, NSW

(I had the opportunity to incorporate a specimen of) *"Caladenia robinsonii, the Frankston Spider Orchid, collected in 1889. This species is now well-known and endangered back home in Melbourne, so this was remarkable to come across."* - Jaspar, VIC

"The botanical training provided by the VBTP course exceeded any opportunities provided by my undergraduate studies of Environmental sciences at my university. The course has provided me with the essential skills, knowledge, and inspiration to continue pursuing plant science research." - Sally-Ann, NSW

"*I'm so grateful that I could take part in this program. It was a truly wonderful opportunity that allowed all my botanical knowledge to grow (like a plant!). I had so much fun doing all herbarium tasks, as well as meeting the people and learning how they, as scientists, got to where they are now" – Clare, VIC*

"Having access to collections of national and international importance was a true privilege, one whose gravitas was not lost on me. To walk in the footsteps of botanists past and present was both humbling and inspiring. Through this training, I have come away with a profound respect for those who navigate the world of nature's complexities and a sense of excitement about how we may all contribute to this field in the future." - Zoe, ACT

"The ANBG Volunteer Botanical Training Program is the highlight of my botanical and environmental training to date. It has acted as a unique fertiliser on my growing love of vascular and non-vascular plants and their fungal partners." - Samanta, NSW

The team outside the herbarium on the last day.

Grant Report: Assessing the Relationships in Bryopsidales Algae through Phylotranscriptomics

Project contributors: Riyad Hossen, Saelin Bjornson, Trevor Bringloe, Heroen Verbruggen
Grant recipient: Riyad Hossen (PhD candidate, School of Biosciences, University of Melbourne)
Project supervision: Heroen Verbruggen (Associate Professor, School of Biosciences, University of Melbourne)

The Hansjörg Eichler grant supporting this project was used to generate transcriptomic data from RNA sequencing for 44 new samples, contributing to a total of 71 taxa sampled for this study to represent the diversity of the Bryopsidales. This significantly contributed to the production of a well-resolved phylogeny of Bryopsidales recently published in New Phytologist (Hossen *et al.* 2026).

The order Bryopsidales is a group of green macroalgae predominantly thriving in tropical to temperate marine environments (Kerswell 2006; Guiry & Guiry 2023). They hold a significant ecological role as primary producers in various marine ecosystems, possess economic importance owing to their utility in food, nutrition, and medicine, and are model organisms in research spanning algal evolution, ecophysiology, and studies on coral bleaching (Fang *et al.* 2017; Del Cortona *et al.* 2020; Iha *et al.* 2021; Hou *et al.* 2022). However, a significant knowledge gap remains regarding their phylogenetic relationships.

Riyad Hossen at the 13th International Phycological Congress

Prior research utilizing chloroplast genome and nuclear ribosomal DNA-based markers has elucidated the suborders of Bryopsidales, namely Ostreobineae, Bryopsidineae, and Halimedineae, yet challenges persist in fully resolving the relationships among certain families and genera of Bryopsidineae and Halimedineae (Cremen *et al.* 2019; Del Cortona *et al.* 2020; Gulbrandsen *et al.* 2021). To resolve these uncertainties, particularly the relationships of *Pseudobryopsis* and the inconsistent lineages of core Halimedineae within the order Bryopsidales we applied a phylotranscriptomics approach encompassing a large nuclear gene dataset.

The methods (detailed in Hossen *et al.* 2026) achieved 93–96% support across all phylogenetic nodes, providing a fully confident placement of *Pseudobryopsis*, as an early-branching lineage within Bryopsidineae. Within Halimedineae, this study clarifies longstanding ambiguities, confirming relationships among families and tribes. This study also supported the previously revealed polyphyletic nature of genera like *Boodleopsis* and *Pseudochlorodesmis*, challenging prior morphological classifications. Altogether, this

nuclear genome approach provides a solid foundation for refining Bryopsidales taxonomy and emphasizes the value of dense sampling and rigorous model testing in future algal phylogenetics.

One major challenge we encountered in this study was the limited availability of samples from specific lineages, such as the Ostreobineae suborder and species of *Boodleopsis*. We were also limited by the depth of sequencing coverage for several samples nuclear gene dataset. At this stage, we have wrapped up this project but looking ahead, there is strong potential to expand this work into a comprehensive phylogenomic study by incorporating additional taxa that were not included in the current analysis. With improved sequencing strategies, deeper coverage, and more extensive taxon sampling, future studies can build upon this foundation to further unravel the evolutionary relationships within Bryopsidales.

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Update from the Queensland Herbarium and Biodiversity Science Unit

Melinda Laidlaw, Queensland Herbarium and Biodiversity Science

A highlight of 2025 was the opportunity to attend the ASBS conference in Armidale in November and provide an update of what's been happening at the Queensland Herbarium and Biodiversity Science (QHBS) Unit. QHBS's 66 staff are distributed across four teams: Species and Herbarium Collections (SHC), Ecosystem Survey and Mapping, Ecological Sciences and our Biodiversity Assessment Team. Dr Gill Brown is our director and is the first woman to ever hold this position in our 170-year history. Dr Melinda Laidlaw is now in Gill's former role as Science Leader of the Species and Herbarium (BRI) Collections team, and we have recently welcomed Dr Andrew Fletcher as our Principal Botanist and Collections Manager.

The Species and Herbarium Collections team are 14 passionate botanists, ethnobotanists, mycologists, ecologists and collection management specialists who work closely together to describe, model, map and understand Queensland's unique and biodiverse flora and fungi. We recently celebrated a milestone of over 40 years of service and wished a happy retirement to two of our long-serving team members — Aileen Wood and Paul Robins. As well as our staff, SHC's work is also very much supported by an army of over 60 dedicated volunteers. Together we enable better decision making, biodiversity management and reporting in Queensland through excellence in foundational and applied science.

At the heart of our work are the BRI specimen collections of more than 935,000 plant, algae, fungi and lichen specimens contributed by 30,000 collectors that continues to grow at a rate of around 8–10,000 specimens per year. We are striving to reach one million specimens around the time of the Brisbane Olympics in 2032. Our Herbrecs collections database is powered by Specify 7, and our data is accessible via the Qld Government's Wildnet platform, AVH, ALA, and the annual Census of the Queensland Flora and Fungi. So far, our team has digitised around one third of our collection, and most of these images are freely available online.

In addition to maintaining our precious collections, our team also beavers away on priority systematics research, the development of keys and other taxonomic tools, the publication of our journal Austrobaileya and the provision of advice to a wide range of stakeholders. We also undertake applied species research, conservation and restoration genetics, habitat modelling, distribution mapping and climate projections for Queensland's species. Our dedicated Tropical Indigenous Ethnobotany Centre team empowers Traditional Owners to document their ethnobotanical knowledge. If you would like to chat with us about ideas for partnerships, collaborations and study, the SHC team would love to hear from you Melinda.Laidlaw@detsi.qld.gov.au. If you can't visit us in Brisbane, you can take a virtual tour online.

News and Events

Please send to the Newsletter Editor anything that you think is of interest for the ASBS community.

ASPT Special Webinar Series

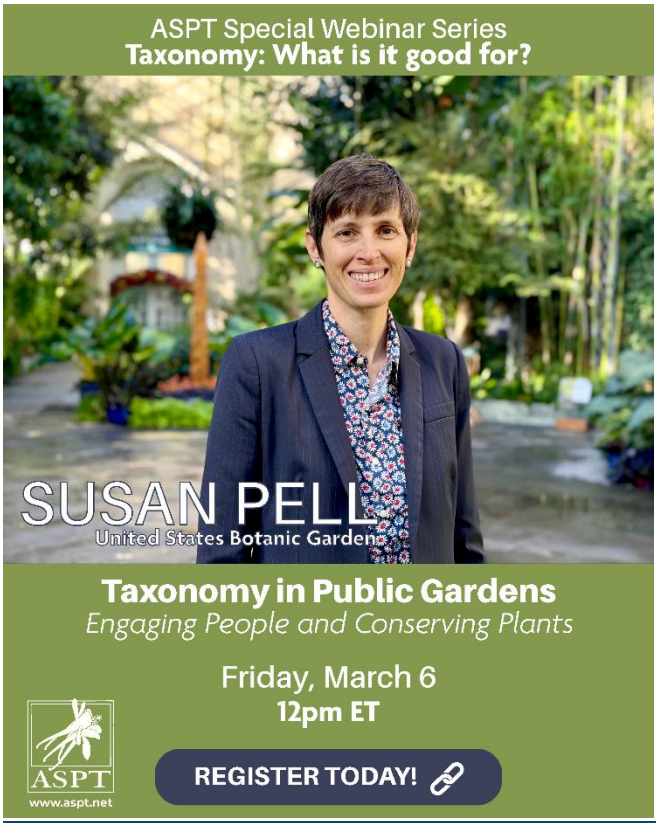
Taxonomy: What is it good for?

The American Society for Plant Taxonomy has a new webinar series. The talks look fascinating! But the timing isn't optimal for us Antipodeans. Luckily you can catch up with all the talks on their YouTube page.

@AmSocPlantTax

Or if you're a bit of a night owl you can register for upcoming webinars here

Webinar Registration - Zoom



iDigBio Webinar Series

On the theme of webinar series, iDigBio has a great back catalogue all related to natural history collections and digitisaton. iDigBio are actively adding to it all the time, so favourite this page to keep an eye on the offerings.

More information: Sustaining Collections Digitization Beyond NSF Funding: A Webinar Series - iDigBio

Talking Plants with Tim Entwistle

A new seminar a bit closer to home for many of us.

A New Science Talk Series at Botanic Gardens of Sydney 10.00–11.30 am, 6 May 2026 Acacia Theatre, The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan Hosted by Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens.

More information: Talking Plants with Tim Entwisle (live!) | Botanic Gardens of Sydney

ANBG Thursday Talks

This round of news and events seems to have turned into a plug for seminar series…so I thought I would add an oldy but a goody. Unfortunately, these talks are not made available online at present, so you'll need to head to Canberra for this one.

More information: Thursday talks | Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens

The Queensland Herbarium Seminar Series

The long running, ever interesting BRI seminar series is available online.

More information: Webinars, seminars and events | Environment, land and water | Queensland Government

The Newsletter

The ASBS Newsletter keeps members informed of society events and news, and provides a platform for debate and discussion. The newsletter is published three times a year on the ASBS website. ASBS members are encouraged to submit original articles, notes and letters.

Have an article or an idea for the Newsletter?

Send it to Helen Kennedy at
editor.asbsnews@gmail.com

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Advertising space is available for advertising of products or services of interest to ASBS members at the following rates (AUD):

Full page: $200
Half page: $100
Flyers: $250

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The Society

The Australasian Systematic Botany Society is an incorporated association of over 300 people with professional or amateur interest in botany. The aim of the society is to promote the study of plant systematics.

Membership is open to all interested in plant systematics. Members are entitled to attend general and chapter meetings, and to receive the ASBS Newsletter. Any person may apply for membership at any time by filling in a membership application form available at http://www.asbs.org.au/membership/. Subscriptions become due on 1 January each year.

The ASBS annual membership subscription is AUD $45, and a concessional rate of AUD $25 is offered to full-time students, retirees and unemployed people. Payment may be by direct credit, credit card or by cheque made out to Australasian Systematic Botany Society Inc. Members can update their contact details online at h

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