

Dedication

Dr Jenny A. Chappill, 1959–2006

This monograph of *Jacksonia* is Jenny Chappill's major achievement in a career that was sadly and prematurely cut short. In these days of short-term funding of science, of having to find a new project with a different 'angle' every 3 years, it is rare to see the completion of a taxonomic monograph comparable in size to this one. Yet in the long run, systematics depends on such comprehensive revisions of large taxonomic groups. It is a credit to Jenny's professionalism, determination and tenacity that she virtually completed this revision in the little time she was given by life. Out of respect and admiration for Jenny's achievements, her co-authors wish to dedicate this issue of *Australian Systematic Botany* to our colleague and senior author.

Jenny's career is recounted in detail by Butcher *et al.* (2006) and is only summarised here. She was born in Melbourne and received her botanical education at the University of Melbourne. Her interest in systematics commenced with masters and PhD degree studies under Professor Pauline Ladiges on the phylogeny of *Eucalyptus* sect. *Maidenaria*. A period of work at the Natural History Museum, London, gave her the opportunity to interact with leading cladists such as Chris Humphries and resulted in theoretical papers published in leading journals. This led to a postdoctoral position with Professor Peter Stevens at Harvard University and, in 1991, her appointment to a lecturing position at the University of Western Australia.

Jenny's main research interest concerned the legume family. Starting during her stint at Harvard, she built the largest non-molecular phylogenetic data set for the family, and her analyses were published in two chapters of the *Advances in Legume Systematics* monographic series. Research assistants in this project were Teresa Lebel, Diana Corbyn, Juliet Wege and Ainsley Calladine. With Bruce Maslin of the Western Australian herbarium, she also published a cladistic analysis of *Acacia*. However, her main effort went into revisionary studies in the large Western Australian radiation of 'egg and bacon' pea-flowered shrubs (tribe *Mirbelieae*), commencing with *Jacksonia*, published here. She has also worked on *Gompholobium* (manuscript submitted), *Sphaerolobium*, *Eutaxia*, *Urodon*, *Phyllota*, *Latrobea*, *Euchilus* and *Aotus*. Her collaborators in these endeavours include her two present co-authors, Wilkins and Crisp, as well as students (Ryonen Butcher and Gemma Henderson), and artist Lorraine Cobb employed under grants. Jenny's *modus operandi* was exhaustive, with meticulous attention to detail. She scored characters from literature, herbarium specimens and life – Jenny is the only taxonomist I have seen literally writing descriptions in the field. She also made working sketches in the field, and in the laboratory she employed artists to make a comprehensive and accurate set of line drawings such as can be seen in this paper. Through her students, Jenny's taxonomic interests extended to several other families (detailed in Butcher *et al.* 2006).



Jenny took her teaching as seriously as her research. She aimed to ensure that botany (and agriculture) students gained a thorough knowledge of the rich flora of the Western Australian south-west. She led multiple field trips with each class, sometimes at a considerable distance from Perth, and the students were expected to learn to recognise a wide range of taxa to species level. Classes were often large and this approach required much organisation, but Jenny was not one to do anything by half measures. At assessment time, students filed through a laboratory filled with vases of freshly picked flowering samples and had to identify as many specimens as they could – from memory.

The class field trips had another purpose: a successful project to build up the University's herbarium, with the long-term aim of representing every species native to the south-west. In 1997, after the death of Professor Brian Grieve, Jenny, Margaret Lewington and Lorraine Cobb took over the task of revising the popular illustrated key to the south-western flora, by Blackall and Grieve. Part 2, including the legumes, was published in 1998 although another one, on the monocots, remains uncompleted.

Jenny's premature illness, from ovarian cancer, was a shock, not least to her. She fought it with her typical doggedness, and extended an initial prognosis of six months to four years of remaining life. At the same time, she worked unstintingly to finish her unpublished monographs, and was still making corrections to this manuscript only days before the end. We, her surviving friends and colleagues, can only wistfully recall the long, pleasant evenings over a fine meal and a jar or three of

beer. The most fitting memorial we can give Jenny is to submit her extensive plant collections and help her complete her life's work, starting with *Jacksonia*.

Reference

Butcher R, Wege J, Shepherd K (2006) Vale Jennifer Anne Chappill: July 26th 1959 – August 8th 2006. *Australian Systematic Botany Newsletter* **129**, 6–11.

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