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A NOTE ON ACERATIUM FERRUGINEUM C. T. WHITE (ELAEOCARPACEAE)

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When I revised the Australian species of *Aceratium* (van Balgooy, 1963) no good flowering material was available of *A. ferrugineum*. By then the species had only been collected four times, all in rainforest on Mt. Spurgeon and Mt. Lewis in NE Queensland. Although more material of this apparently rare Australian endemic has been collected since, no flowering material became available until November 28, 1974, when Bernie Hyland found a tree of this species in flower. He kindly sent me flowers preserved in F.A.A. for study and completion of my earlier description. The notes that follow are based mainly on this collection, *B. P. M. Hyland 7885*, State Forest Reserve 143, North Mary Logging Area, 16°30′ S, 145°15′ E, in rainforest at 1200 m, and on *van Balgooy 1621*, collected on August 13, 1971 on Mt. Misery in rainforest at *c.* 1200 m.

Inflorescence racemose, 15 mm long, with 8—10 flowers decussately arranged, on pedicels 8—10 mm long; peduncle and pedicels densely tomentellous. *Flowers* 5-merous. *Sepals* narrowly lanceolate, 14—16 mm long 3—4 mm broad, with raised midrib inside, densely tomentellous outside, very short velutinous inside. *Petals* pink-red (*in vivo*), narrowly spathulate, 18—20 mm long, 5—7 mm broad at top, apex either three-lobed, each lobe indented, or apex irregularly dentate, midrib raised inside in lower half of the petal, the lower two thirds of the margin, the midrib and the base of the petal inside covered with soft hairs generally pointing backwards. *Disk c.* 1 mm high, with weak episepalous lobes, strigose. *Stamens* 15, arranged in groups of three opposite the sepals inserted inside the disk, the middle stamen more central than the outer two. Filaments sigmoid or curved at the end, 5—7 mm long, tapering to the top, glabrous; anthers linear, 3.9—4.1 mm long, minutely puberulous, setiferous at the apex. *Ovary* ovoid, 4—5 mm long, densely strigose, three-locular, each cell containing four axillary, pendulous, anatropous ovules in two rows. — Fig. 1a—g.

Trees of this species grow considerably taller than 18 m as stated in my previous description. *Hyland 7885* is a tree 25 m tall with a trunk diameter of 70 cm at breast height. According to Hyland (1971) large trees have fluted stems. *Van Balgooy 1621* is a tree 30 m tall with a trunk *c.* 75 cm diameter at breast height. The specimen was loaded with ripe fruits. These are ellipsoid, the largest 4 cm long and 2 cm broad, orange to red, soft pubescent, the mesocarp is fibrous inside and hard fleshy outside. Several fruits had been partly eaten by birds.

REFERENCES

BALGOOY, M. M. J. VAN. 1963. Review of the Australian species of Aceratium. Blumea 12: 71—77.
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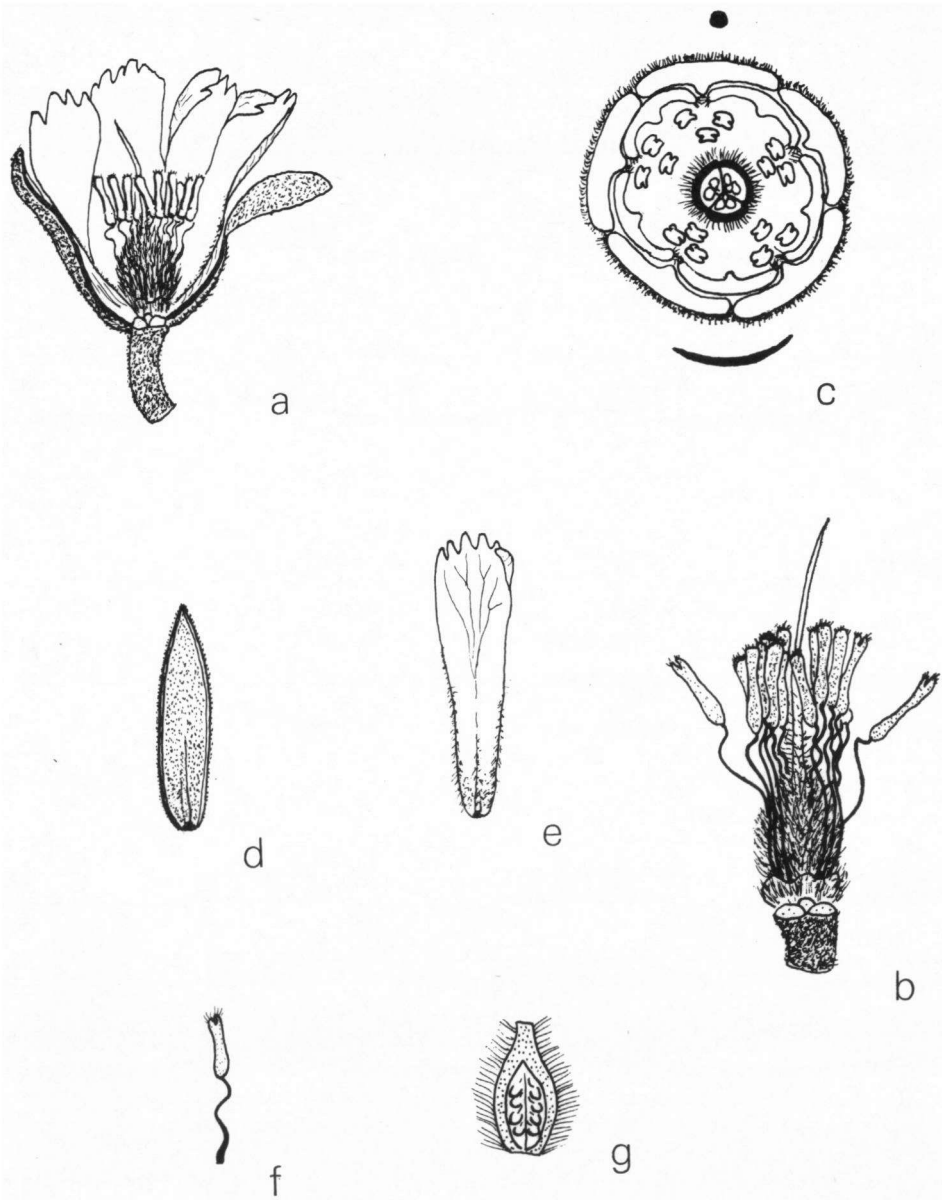

Fig. 1. *Ageratum ferrugineum* — a. flower with two sepals and one petal removed, × 1½; b. pistil after removal of all sepals and petals showing disk and insertion of stamens, × 2½; c. flower diagram, × 2½; d. sepal with median ridge inside, × 1½; e. petal from inside, × 1½; f. stamen, × 1½; g. longitudinal section of ovary showing arrangement of ovules, × 2½ (all from *Hyland 7885*).