

Progress Report SP 2007-014

Development of interactive identification platforms and content

Plant Science and Herbarium

Project Core Team

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Project Team	granted
Program Leader	granted
Directorate	granted

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Context

Botanical identification keys are important tools that allow a wide variety of people—researchers, Parks and Wildlife staff, consultants, students and members of the general public—to identify plants. Good keys are particularly important in Western Australia in the absence of a complete flora for the state. This project is developing, in conjunction with botanists and other members of the herbarium community, a range of computer-based, interactive identification keys for various groups of Western Australian plants, using the Lucid software tools. Completed keys are being published on FloraBase for community-wide access.

Aims

Develop user-friendly and accurate identification keys for important groups of Western Australian plants.

Progress

- Keys to the families Goodeniaceae, Proteaceae, Lamiaceae and Haemodoraceae in Western Australia have been made available through FloraBase, and have been updated and errors corrected, often as a result of user feedback.
- A key to all Western Australian species in the family Restionaceae has been completed and made available on Florabase.
- Coding for a key to all Western Australian species of the important family Malvaceae is close to completion.

Management implications

The ability to accurately identify plant species in Western Australia is critical for conservation planning and management.

Future directions

- Continue to correct and improve all keys as a result of user feedback.
- Complete the key to Malvaceae and publish online in FloraBase.