

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Bossiaea oligosperma A. Lee, sp. nov. (Fabaceae: Bossiaceae).

***Bossiaea oligosperma* A. Lee, sp. nov.** frutex 1–2 m altus, caulibus teretibus, foliis unifoliolatis alternis, late ovatis basi symmetricis, glabrescentibus, stipulis petiololum excedentibus, floribus 8–11 mm longis in pedicellis glabris, vexillo alisque luteis, carina atosanguinea, ovario breviter stipitato glabro 3 (–4?)–ovulato, legumine oblique elliptico nigrescente, seminibus plerumque 1–2.

Species affinis *B. neo-anglicae* F. Muell. sed habitu alto-erecto et legumine pauciseminale, et aff. *B. brownii* Benth. sed pedicellis calycibusque glabris et foliolis rotundatoribus distincta; utrinque foliolis base symmetricis differt.

HOLOTYPE: Tonalli R. landing towards Byrnes Creek, Warragamba [*sic*: Byrnes Creek flows into the southwestern end of Lake Burrarorang, or Warragamba Reservoir], *Mitchell 434*, 20.9.1966 (NSW). **ISOTYPES** (to be sent): BRI, CANB, K, L, MEL, US.

An erect, rather open shrub about 1–2 m in height. *Stems* terete, with a pubescence of comparatively long and loosely crinkled, or shorter and more or less appressed hairs when young, later glabrescent. *Leaves* alternate, shortly petiolate, distichous. *Leaflets* very broad-ovate to broad-elliptical or almost circular, with short-acute or apiculate downturned apices and symmetrical, not cordate, bases, 2.5–5 mm long, slightly folded upwards along the midrib, entire, more or less reticulate on both surfaces, the upper glabrous, the lower at first quite densely pubescent with soft, crinkled hairs persistent only sparsely around the base of the midrib, the margins flat. *Stipules* 1–1.5 mm long, narrow-triangular, scarious, tan to dark-brown, exceeding the petioles. *Flowers* mostly 8–11 mm long, solitary in the axils on glabrous pedicels usually shorter than, or sometimes equal to the subtending leaf. *Floral bracts*: the uppermost of a short series of scales crowded below the single pedicel in the axil, reddish, glabrous except for a short fringe of hairs apically (these scales are interpreted, by comparison with other, pedunculate, species of *Bossiaea*, as the floral bracts subtending suppressed flowers of an axillary inflorescence). *Bracteoles* paired, c. 1 mm long, similar to but slightly longer than the uppermost bract and with it persistent at least to the early fruiting stage, inserted low on the pedicel below the tip of the highest bract. *Calyx* 3–4 mm long, glabrous and slightly waxy, the teeth c. 1 mm long and shorter than the tube, the upper two broad, truncate with small lateral points, united near the base, and slightly longer than the triangular, acute, lower three. *Standard* and *wings* bright yellow with some red colouration, and some greenish yellow inside the standard, the *keel* dark red; all c. 1 cm long. *Ovary* with 3 ovules, glabrous, narrowed into a slender stipe of 3–4 mm. *Legume* stipitate (stipe to 5 mm), glabrous, dark grey to blackish, obliquely elliptical with thickened margins, the lower less curved than the upper, 12–17 mm long, 7–10 mm broad, ripening 1 or 2 (–3) seeds. *Seeds* dark brown speckled with black, 3–3.5 mm long, broadly oblong, with a hooded aril. Flowering in late Spring, especially November. Fig. 1.

DISTRIBUTION: known from a very limited area in the southwestern part of the Central Coast subdivision of New South Wales, on stony soils derived from sandstone on the slopes and ridges near the Tonalli River and Yerranderie.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED: NEW SOUTH WALES: **Central Coast:** W. of W-4 Fire road, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile [0.8 km] E. of Lake Burrarorang opposite Tonalli R., 34° 08' S, 15° 22' E, *Mitchell 402*, 8.1966 (NSW; duplicates to be sent to CBG, K, PERTH, UC, Z); Tonalli R. landing towards Byrnes Creek, Warragamba, *Mitchell 277*, 11.1964 (NSW; duplicates to be sent to A, CANB), *435*, 9.1966 (NSW; duplicates to be sent to CBG, PERTH); [near] Byrnes Automatic Recorder on Tonalli Road between Tonalli R. and Byrnes Creek, *Mitchell 410*, 8.1966 (NSW; duplicates to be sent to BRI, MEL); 200 yards [c. 180 m] E. of Wollondilly R., *Mitchell NSW 108144*, 9.1968 (NSW; duplicates to be sent to A, AD, B, BRI, CANB, CBG, G, K, MEL, NE, P, PERTH, S, US, Z).

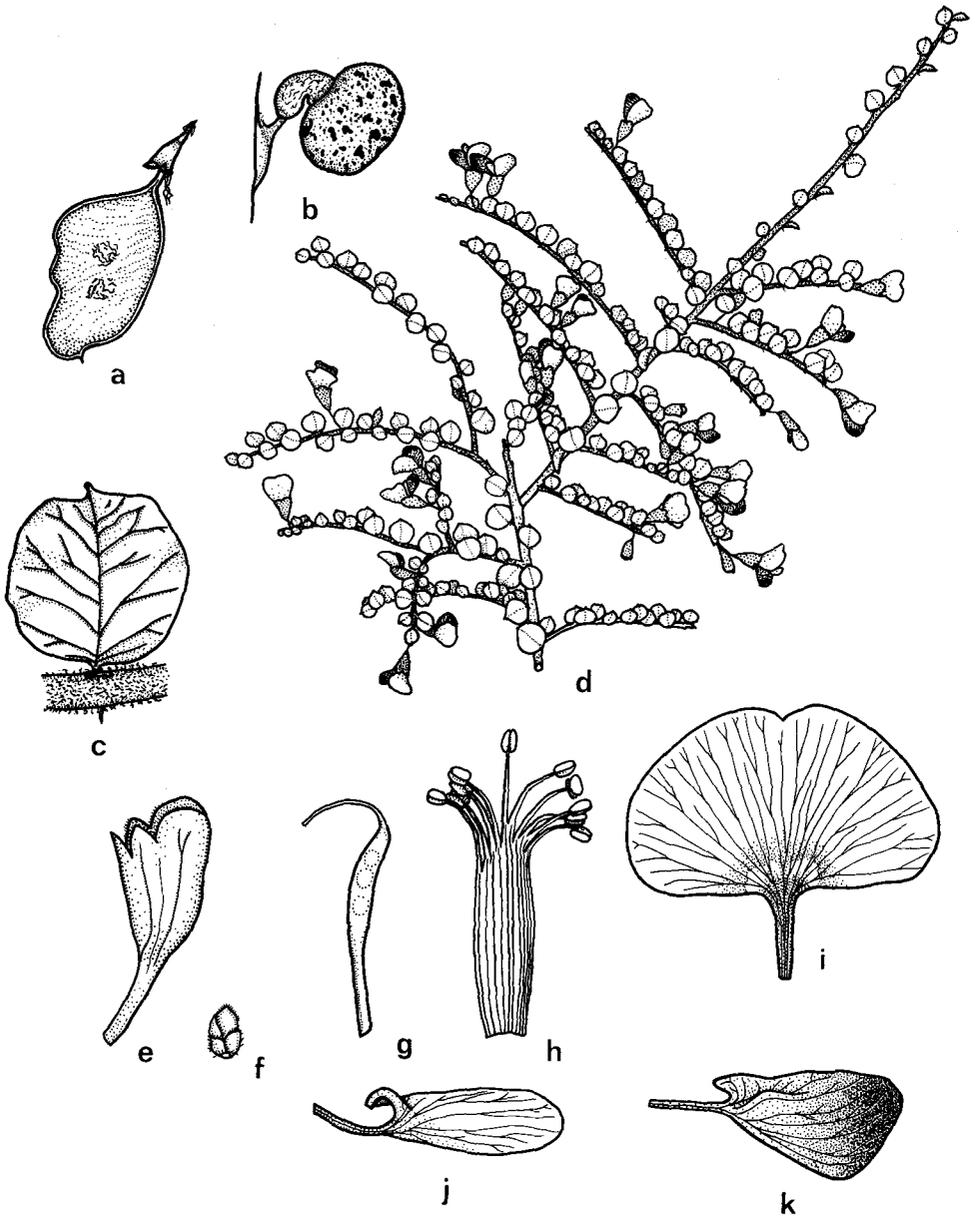


Fig. 1. a. Fruit, $\times 1\frac{1}{3}$. b. seed, $\times 5$. c. leaflet, $\times 4\frac{2}{3}$. d. habit study, $\times 2\frac{2}{3}$. e. Calyx and pedicel, $\times 6$. f. inflorescence bud, $\times 4$. g. gynoecium, $\times 4$. h. androecium, $\times 4$. i. standard, $\times 4$. j. wing, $\times 4$. k. keel, $\times 4$. Vouchers: a-b, Mitchell 227; c-k, Mitchell NSW 108144.

The epithet is derived from Greek: *oligos*—few and *sperma*—seed, in reference to the complement of seeds relative to that in closely related species (except *B. foliosa*).

Bossiaea oligosperma, *B. brownii*, *B. neo-anglica*, *B. buxifolia*, *B. prostrata*, *B. scortechinii* and *B. foliosa* are related species in eastern Australia, which exhibit different combinations of a few characters. Among these, ovule number, habit, relative lengths of stipules to petioles, leaf shape and character (simple or unifoliolate) appear to be diagnostic. *B. brownii* is the most similar to the new species, differing only in leaf shape and pubescence of pedicel, but there is a disjunction of some 700 km in their ranges. *B. brownii* is found in several localities in southeastern Queensland, *B. oligosperma* only near Yerranderie, New South Wales. A smaller but still considerable difference in range separates *B. oligosperma* from another related species, *B. foliosa*, which occurs in higher parts of the Tablelands Division of New South Wales from the Mullions Range (lat. c. 30° S) into Victoria, but not in the Coastal Division. On the other hand, the range of *B. oligosperma* overlaps that of *B. neo-anglica*, but these are species more clearly distinct in morphology.

Dr M. D. Tindale has assembled collections and duplicates of this taxon since it was found in 1964, recognizing its distinctness as a species. She had selected the Types and duplicates for distribution and now permits me to publish these details, and the figure which she had had prepared, with my description. The taxon will appear in Jacobs and Pickard, *Plants of New South Wales* (1981) as *Bossiaea* sp. A.

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