

Project to Import Ornamental Australian Rutaceae

Ray Collett

Included in the Australian Rutaceae are many highly desirable ornamentals. This desirability arises chiefly from their beauty. Many are attractive shrubs with showy flowers. Quite a few flower heavily in shade even in November and December. Some have exceptionally fragrant flowers. Many lend themselves to cut-flower production.

Remarkably enough, both gophers and deer seem to find them highly objectionable. (In our area, deer famished enough to devour *Umbellularia* have not attacked lush specimens of Australian Rutaceae.

Despite the promise of the Australian Rutaceae, only a very few forms have been planted in California gardens. They have not been available. Seeds are difficult both to harvest and to germinate. The USDA has long prohibited importation of cuttings and plants.

The aim of this project was to import the finest available materials in the Australian Rutaceae.



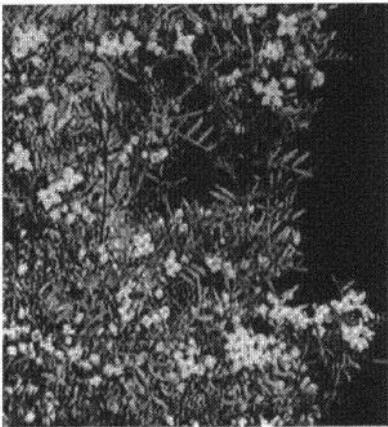
Australian Rutaceae in final stage of quarantine procedure.

Remarkable circumstances made this project possible. First, the USDA was convinced of the desirability of granting a unique permit. Secondly, the UCSC Arboretum had acquired precisely the right friends: special friends in the Rutaceae Study Group of the Australian Native Plant Society (thus ensuring access to treasured specimens) and willing friends



Rows of vigorous specimens, some more than 3 ft high.

skilled in propagation and in preparing materials for overseas shipment. Moreover the Arboretum itself had the benefit of years of experience with importing materials from overseas. Very fortunately, timely support for travel and for caring for specimens was available from the Slosson Fund.



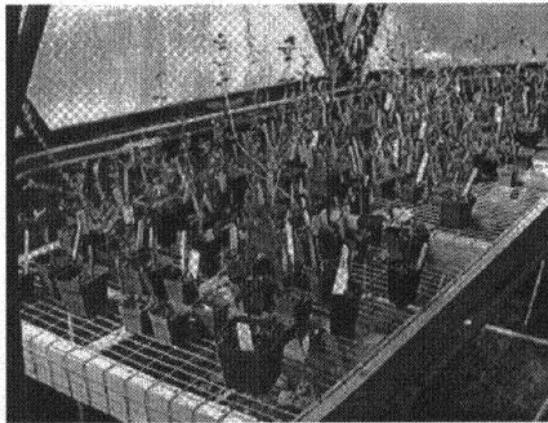
Newly imported boronia section in flower.



Newly imported crowea selection in flower.

Acquisition of the finest of materials has involved more than 30,000 km of ground travel in Australia by the UCSC Arboretum Director, Manager, and Nursery Manager. It proved necessary, for nearly a year, to devote the whole of a large

greenhouse to the project. Adventures in this highly unusual project were many.

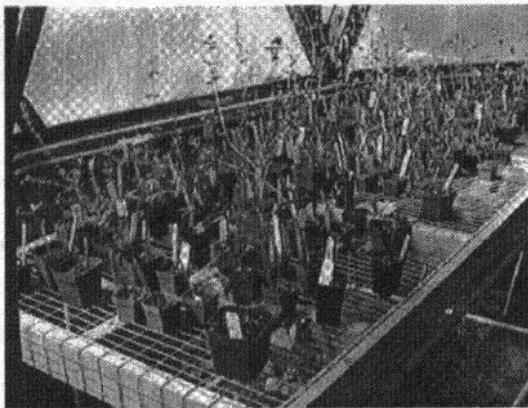


Specimens in field quarantine.

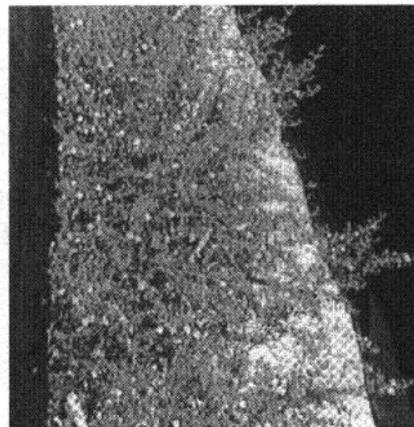
Assurance has just been received that all specimens in our first shipments have successfully passed through the last stages of quarantine. Cleared are the following numbers of selections, by genus.

<i>Boronia</i>	24
<i>Correa</i>	27
<i>Crowea</i>	7
<i>Diplolaena</i>	2
<i>Eriostemon</i>	11
<i>Nematolepis</i>	3
<i>Phebalium</i>	6
<i>Philotheca</i>	1

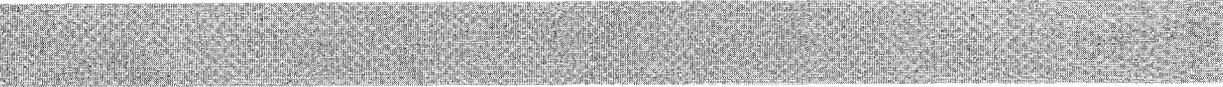
Assurance has also been received that 73 additional selections (distributed among *Boronia*, *Correa*, *Crowea*, *Eriostemon*, *Flindersia*, *Phebalium*,



Potted specimens, in greenhouse quarantine.



Specimens flowering in field quarantine.



and *Zieria*) can now be planted in the field, to undergo the final year of quarantine).

Other selections are in earlier stages of the process, and the Arboretum's permit to import Rutaceae, moreover, has been renewed. Mostly, however, a new project is beginning: propagating, testing, exhibiting, publicizing, and distributing the new Rutaceae that are now successfully growing on this side of the Pacific.

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