CONTENTS

PREFACE ........................................................................................................................................... IX

PLANT LIFE ON THE SANDPLAINS IN SOUTHWEST AUSTRALIA,
A GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT — INTRODUCTION ......................................................... XI

CHAPTER 1: KWONGAN, FROM GEOLOGY TO LINGUISTICS.......................................................... 1

CHAPTER 1A: ON THE ORIGINS, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND SOILS
OF THE SANDPLAINS OF SOUTH-WESTERN AUSTRALIA......................................................... 3

CHAPTER 1B: SANDPLAIN AND KWONGAN: HISTORICAL SPELLINGS,
MEANINGS, SYNONYMS, GEOGRAPHY AND DEFINITION....................................................... 23

CHAPTER 2: BIOGEOGRAPHY OF KWONGAN: ORIGINS, DIVERSITY,
ENDEMISM AND VEGETATION PATTERNS............................................................................... 35

CHAPTER 3: A DIVERSE FLORA — SPECIES AND GENETIC RELATIONSHIPS.............. 81

CHAPTER 4: PLANT MINERAL NUTRITION ................................................................................ 101

CHAPTER 5: CARBON AND WATER RELATIONS......................................................................... 129

CHAPTER 6: PLANTS AND FIRE IN KWONGAN VEGETATION ........................................... 147

CHAPTER 7: PLANT–ANIMAL INTERACTIONS ........................................................................... 171

POLLINATION

7A. EVOLUTION OF POLLINATION STRATEGIES................................................................. 173

7B. THE BEGUILING AND THE WARTY —
POLLINATION OF KWONGAN ORCHIDS........................................................................... 181

7C. POLLINATION VECTORS: INVERTEBRATES ................................................................... 195

7D. POLLINATION VECTORS: VERTEBRATES.................................................................... 207
TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONTINUED)

HERBIVORY

7E. THE HONEY POSSUM, TARSIPES ROSTRATUS, A KEYSTONE SPECIES IN THE KWONGAN ............................................................ 215

7F. FLUOROACETATE, PLANTS, ANIMALS AND A BIOLOGICAL ARMS RACE ..........225

7G. YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT: PLANT–INSECT SYNERGIES IN THE KWONGAN..... 241

ANIMALS PROVIDING ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

7H. ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OF DIGGING MAMMALS ............................................ 255

CHAPTER 8: CONSERVATION OF THE KWONGAN FLORA: THREATS AND CHALLENGES ................................................................................ 263

CHAPTER 9: HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS WITH AND USE OF KWONGAN PLANTS AND LANDS ............................................................ 285

EPILOGUE: WHERE DO WE GO NEXT? .................................................................. 307

SUBJECT INDEX ................................................................................................... 317

INDEX TO BOTANICAL FAMILIES ..........................................................................321

INDEX TO PLANT, BACTERIAL AND FUNGAL SPECIES AND GENERA .................... 323

INDEX TO ANIMAL ORDERS, FAMILIES AND SUBFAMILIES .................................. 327

INDEX TO ANIMAL SPECIES AND GENERA ........................................................... 329

INDEX TO GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA ..............................331
IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE to introduce this beautifully presented and illustrated book to readers, whether professional biologists or laypersons with common interests in the amazing and diverse heritage of wildlife in the sandplains and related ecosystems of south-western Australia.

Plant Life on the Sandplains in Southwest Australia is an entirely new venture and is not an update of the earlier book on a similar topic edited and produced some thirty years ago by John Beard and myself. Firstly, it embraces a far broader range of topics, themes and conceptual issues, and features chapters on plant–animal interactions, conservation, phylogenetics and Aboriginal use of plants. Secondly, it employs almost three times the number of authors, including several new postgraduate and early-career scientists and, serendipitously, only a few of the old brigade commissioned for the earlier book! Thirdly, it covers a wide variety of approaches, methodologies and techniques, proving how well the contributors are using those state-of-the art tools which are so integral to current biological research. Finally, the standard of presentation of visual material and the ‘reader-friendly’ approach is exemplary. Without doubt, the authors and publishers have taken full advantage of the extraordinary escalation in publishing techniques over the past few decades.

The editor, Professor Hans Lambers, has impressively and intuitively developed his range of topics and selected for each a lead author and a team of specialists dealing with issues such as environment, biodiversity, speciation and phylogenetics, ecosystem composition and coevolution. He complements the above cohort by underpinning the book with chapters on topics such as geology, soils and climate, plant–mineral nutrition – including anomalous types of nutrition – plant responses to fire, and how plants adapt their carbon and water relations to testing environments. Here we find pointers towards understanding the adaptive forces behind responses not only of single species, but also towards how ecosystems are constituted and interact competitively with one another. In addition, the lead authors have ably accepted the challenge to evaluate where the current state of the knowledge in their area stands, where gaps are evident, and where further research needs to be directed. It is an approach such as this which makes a venture challenging as well as authoritative.

I have every confidence that Plant Life on the Sandplains in Southwest Australia will inspire and enthuse present and future generations of researchers to set their research goalposts even higher, to discover more, and to make every attempt to conserve our ‘hotspot’ of diversity in the southwest. It will be interesting to see whether evaluations, decades from now, of accomplishments in research will indicate that such expectations have been fulfilled.