

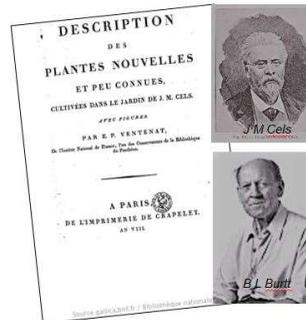


Willow-leaved Hakea

ID # 34



Evolution of a botanic name – Botany Bay to Paris to London



Willow-leaved Hakea was first formally described in 1800 by French botanist Étienne Pierre Ventenat who gave it the name *Embrothium salicifolium* and published the description in *Description des Plantes Nouvelles et peu connues, cultivees dans le Jardin de J.M. Cels*. The specimen was grown in the garden of Jacques Philippe Martin Cels from material collected from Botany Bay in 1792.

In 1941 English botanist Brian L. Burt changed the name to *Hakea salicifolia* and published the description in *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information*.

Uses

The dense foliage acts as shady shelter for native birds while bees are attracted by its profuse flowering. It is a popular feature tree in streets, native gardens and suburban gardens, as well as being used as informal hedging.

Family: *Proteaceae*

Genus: *Hakea*

Botanic name: *Hakea salicifolia*

Hakea after Baron Christian Ludwig von Hake, a patron of botany; *salicifolia* is derived from the Latin words *salix* meaning "willow" and *folium* meaning "leaf" referring to the willow-like leaves

Also known as: Willow-leaved Hakea; Finger hakea, Willow hakea

Origin: Endemic to eastern Australia, in particular on the coast and ranges of N.S.W. from the Shoalhaven River north to Kempsey as well as in South East Queensland.

Habitat: Wet sclerophyll forest, often near rainforest.

Description: Large bushy, dense evergreen shrub or small tree that grows up to 8m in height. Newly sprouted shoots have sparse silky hairs on them and over time they develop into woody branches with red ribbing. Leaves are narrow to lanceolate, up to 110mm long and 20mm wide. These willow-like fronts are pale green in colour while new leaf growth is tinged with orange.



Brilliant white curly flowers appear in the late winter to spring, each cluster is made up of 16-28 blossoms, all neatly attached to a short stalk. Woody seed pods follow flowering. They are 20mm long and contain two winged seeds – the usual number for all Hakea species. The pods usually require stimulation such as by a fire to shed their seed.



Sources:

<https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Hakea~salicifolia>
<http://anpsa.org.au/h-sal.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hakea_salicifolia
<https://canberra.naturemapr.org/sightings/3869059>

Propagation and cultivation: *Hakea salicifolia* may be grown from seed or from cuttings which are also successful. Because it is so reliable, it is commonly used as a rootstock for grafting more difficult to grow Hakea species.