

A NEW AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *GOSSYPIMUM*

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Abstract

A germplasm collecting expedition in the North Kimberley region of Western Australia resulted in acquisition of specimens and seeds of a wild relative of cotton that had not been reported previously. Over-all characteristics, such as fiberless arillate seeds, white corolla with red throat, woody root crown, and recurved peduncle, indicated that it was affiliated with Section *Grandicalyx*. The ecological habitat of the taxon was coastal with the plants growing in sandy soil. This differed from the habitats of most other *Gossypium* species of the Kimberley region, which tend to occur on lateritic soils. The plants are robust with multiple erect stems up to 1.5 m originating from a common root crown. The orientation of the leaves is ascending and the adaxial side may slightly encircle the stem near the apex of the plant. All parts of the plant are essentially glabrous with only an occasional minute stellate hair. The leaves are up to 9 cm in width, orbiculate to ovate in shape with a petiole less than 2.5 cm. Venation of the leaves is pinnate, a trait that distinguishes it from all *Grandicalyx* species except *G. cunninghamii*. An unusual feature was the raised veins on both the adaxial and abaxial sides of the leaves such that the two sides looked very similar. The formal description of this species, to be published elsewhere, will carry the name *Gossypium anapoides* based on this last feature. The combination is derived from Greek prefixes and suffix, ($\alpha\nu\alpha$ -)+($\alpha\pi$ -)+(- $\omicron\epsilon\iota\delta\epsilon\zeta$):(above)+(below)+(resemble).