

# Australian seeds: a photographic guide

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This chapter contains photographs of seeds of more than 1200 species that are held in the seedbank at the Seed Technology Centre, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Perth, Western Australia. Rather than showing every species in a genus we have attempted to show the great range of diversity of seeds found within different genera. In many cases there is considerable variety in either shape or colour between species, and the seeds can be used as a significant tool for diagnostic identification.

Most of the species photographed are referenced to the herbarium specimens and a list of collection numbers is given in Appendix 2 of this book. This provides a direct link from the photograph to the naming and collection record for that species.

The seeds are measured as accurately as possible and the size shown beside the photographs is generally the length. Seeds are not uniform in size and therefore this is a guide only.

The very small seeds, those below about 1 mm in size, are not easily distinguished and groups such as *Melaleuca* are particularly obscure in shape and form. Those seeds too difficult to view with the naked eye or with a field hand lens have therefore been photographed under a microscope.

Although the seeds were originally photographed for their affinity with the genus they belong to, they have immense natural beauty that shines as you look through the photographs. They are interesting enough in themselves to enjoy the shapes, forms and textures. Their range of colours and their sheer variety is startling.

In some cases, the photographs are of fruits rather than seeds, for example *Leucopogon*, *Eremophila* and *Scaevola*. For these species the seeds are stored while still in the fruits and cannot be removed easily.



The seeds of some species such as *Eremophila* are stored while still in the fruit.