

# Peppy Plants August 2014

by Eleanor Bennett

*Melaleuca huegelii* commonly called Chenille Honey Myrtle does not occur naturally at Peppy Beach but does grow to the north and south of us (see also [Melaleuca huegelii](#)). It occurs from Shark Bay to Cape Leeuwin, with the pink flowered Shark Bay form being restricted in distribution. *Melaleuca* is derived from the Greek melas meaning black and leucos meaning white due to the black and white trunk of some Asian species; and *huegelii* commemorates Baron von Huegel an Austrian naturalist who visited the Swan River and King George Sound in 1833. It is typically a shrub, but where it grows in protected environments can be a small tree up to 5m tall. The leaves are scattered, up to 6mm long and 5mm wide, attached just above the base, spreading away from the stem, with a pointed apex. The cylindrical flower spikes are up to 10cm long and 2.5cm wide. The flowers are white to cream with sepals up to 1mm long and petals to 3mm long. There are 5 stamen bundles up to 1cm long including a distinct claw about 5mm long each with 7-11 stamens. The fruiting spike consists of densely packed fruits. It is a shrub worthy of growing.



This shrub was photographed at the Wave Walk car park.



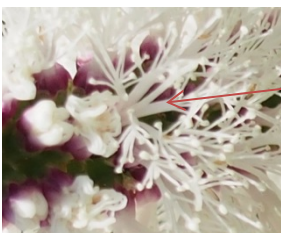
The white to cream flowers occur in terminal, cylindrical densely flowered spikes reaching up to 10cm long. The stem axis grows out beyond the flowering spike.



The first photograph indicates the way the leaves spread away from the stem and the one below shows how they are attached at the base.



The fruiting spike is cylindrical up to 15cm long, with numerous individual fruits.



Stamen bundle

The white stamen bundles are obvious in this photograph as are the 7+ stamens.