

VIRTUAL BOTANICAL

A bush on the screen is worth two in the book...

When rehabilitating land after mining, it pays to know what plants are native to a local area. Unfortunately, when working in the field, actual or pictorial samples may not always be available for botanists to compare – which is where virtual specimens can be more valuable than the proverbial bird in the bush.

Working with SilverBiology and using advanced digital processing techniques, scientists at UQ's Centre for Mined Land Rehabilitation are developing a comprehensive collection of digital plant images that can be used for ecological purposes: a digital herbarium that allows easy access to fragile plants, no matter the location.

Below: Vulnerable shrub Prostanthera stricta from NSW showing flowers on left, detail of petal on right



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DIGITAL HERBARIUM

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